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The Guardian

EUROPE

Sport, page 20

G2 cover story

Media, G2 pages 10-11

Netanyahu rejects president's plea to keep to peace process timetable

Israel snubs Clinton

David Starrook
in Jerusalem

PRESIDENT Clinton, distracted by threats of impeachment in three days time, was fighting a losing battle last night to carry a foreign policy victory home to Washington after Israel rejected appeals to keep to the peace process timetable he personally brokered.

On the first day of a visit which most of Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet believes is tilted towards recognition of Palestinian statehood aspirations, Mr Clinton often looked weary. He laboured to convince the Israeli government to press on with full implementation of the Wye land-for-security agreement.

The Wye deal, which took Clinton nine days to negotiate in October and which this visit was supposed to celebrate, trades 10 per cent of Israeli-occupied West Bank for a Palestinian clampdown on extremists. After three months, both sides were to move to final negotiations on Jerusalem's status, refugees and Palestine's borders.

In a reference to a threat by Palestinian president Yasser Arafat to declare a state next May, Mr Clinton told an audience of Israeli students: "The Palestinian leaders must work harder to keep the agreement and avoid the impression that unilateral actions can replace agreed-upon negotiations."

He added, to applause: "But it is vital that you [Israelis], too, recognise the validity of this agreement and work to sustain it and all other aspects of the peace process."

Earlier, he listened impassively as Mr Netanyahu told a joint press conference that the Palestinians had "constantly, systematically and intentionally violated all their commitments."

Mr Netanyahu said the Palestinians had to stop incitement to violence "fully and permanently" and "officially and unequivocally" renounce plans unilaterally to declare a state next May, the deadline for a final peace under the five-year-old Oslo process.

"No one can seriously expect Israel to hand over another inch of territory unless and until such an unambiguous correction is made," he said.

Ignoring White House pressure to avoid the issue, an Israeli television reporter asked Mr Clinton if he would

resign if impeached. "I have no intention of resigning; it has never crossed my mind," Mr Clinton said, in what was his first public comment on the House of Representatives judiciary committee approving four articles of impeachment over the weekend.

Mr Clinton is to visit Palestinian Authority-controlled Gaza today, to address Palestine's parliament-in-exile, the Palestinian National Council (PNC), which under the terms of the Wye agreement is expected to formally abolish calls for Israel's destruction.

Mr Netanyahu insisted publicly and privately that unless the PNC publicly votes out the disputed clauses in its charter he will not join the US president and Yasser Arafat.

Mr Arafat maintains that there will be no vote, because the relevant clauses have already been dealt with.

However, a senior PLO official conceded that participants would either raise their hands, stand or clap when the Palestinian leader addresses the gathering today.

"If Israel wants to interpret this as a vote, so be it, but this is not a PNC meeting, and a quorum is not needed nor will there be a vote count," the official said.

Palestinian street violence continued in the West Bank yesterday when an Israeli soldier shot dead a Palestinian girl, and there were clashes in Bethlehem.

Four demonstrators were shot dead by Israeli soldiers last week in stone-throwing clashes fuelled by the belief that Mr Netanyahu had "cheated" on the Wye agreement by releasing ordinary criminals from Israeli jails instead of the political-security prisoners promised.

The leader of the militant Islamic Jihad party in Gaza was arrested last night after saying in a television interview that he would kill Mr Clinton if he could. Abdullah Shami said: "I would not hesitate." However, he added: "I don't know of anybody in Gaza who is thinking of killing Clinton now, but if the Wye River agreement involves a change in the Palestinian position to the worse, and somebody does kill him, I will be happy."

Even if Mr Netanyahu declares himself satisfied with the PNC's performance, it is unlikely that the second phase of the land handover will go ahead on schedule later this week. Mr Netanyahu faces a motion of no-confidence next Monday in the



President Clinton lays a stone on the grave of former Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN JAFFE

Knesset which, if he loses, will set the clock running to a general election in 60 days. Mr Netanyahu cannot continue with the Wye agreement and keep his radical right within his cabinet, so he

is expected to postpone the next troop pullout from the West Bank at least until after the Knesset vote.

Two thousand Palestinians in Israeli jails will today suspend their hunger strike to

lower tensions during Mr Clinton's visit to PA-controlled areas, and instead of a national strike church bells will be rung in Bethlehem during the president's visit.

Mr Clinton also promised

Mr Netanyahu a prompt decision on whether to free Jonathan Pollard, a former US Navy intelligence analyst convicted of spying for Israel, after a review is complete in January.

Scandal-hit council's secret plan for pay-offs

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

PROMINENT figures implicated in local government's biggest gerrymandering scandal — the Westminster "homes for votes" affair — are to be offered payments totalling £700,000 at a secret meeting of the authority this week.

The proposed payments are a prelude to offering Dame Shirley Porter, the former Conservative leader of the council, up to £1 million from taxpayers' funds if she wins her appeal against a £27 million surcharge imposed by the district auditor, John Magill, after a seven-year inquiry into the scandal.

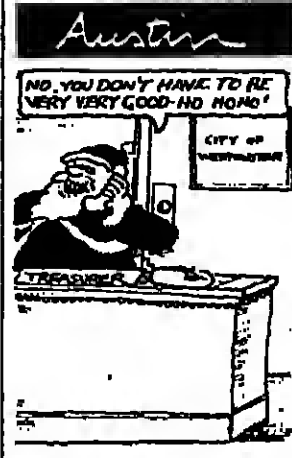
Westminster council has received legal advice that it has no obligation to compensate those involved, and none of those who will receive payments has been totally exonerated.

The payments to the individuals and to a trade association which represented the officials involved are recommended in a secret report by the council. This report will be discussed at a venue to be disclosed to councillors only minutes beforehand on Wednesday.

The report also recommends that Dame Shirley and the former deputy leader David Weeks should, in principle, receive compensation later if they win their appeal cases.

The highest beneficiary this week will be Barry Legg, the former Tory MP for Milton Keynes South West and chief whip of the Tory authority, who will be offered £165,000 to sanction the payments.

The former managing director of the authority, Bill Phillips, is to be offered £101,000 and two prominent serving Tory councillors, Alex Segal and Miles Young, will share



£80,000. Another £350,000 will be handed over to a small staff organisation which represented three Westminster officials, Graham England, director of housing, Sydney Spoor, the planning director, and Paul Hayler, a housing assistant.

The council has been told that it can pay the money only if the recipients are "not in any way culpable" in the scandal. This is not borne out by either the district auditor's report or by the High Court which heard the appeals of five people involved.

The council sought government permission for the payments, with an application to John Gummer, the former environment secretary, before the last election.

But Mr Gummer declined to intervene and left it in the "in tray" of his successor, John Prescott.

Mr Prescott and Hilary Armstrong, the local government minister, refused to sanction the payments.

Mr Magill, who took legal advice, has also refused Westminster council permission to pay out the cash. However, the new district auditor, turn to page 2, column 8

German bank unions threaten euro launch

David Goss, Mark Milner
and Jill Treanor

GERMAN banking unions are threatening to disrupt the carefully planned start of the single currency on January 1 in a dispute over pay and conditions. The action could bring the first trading in the euro halting to a halt.

The two unions, the DAG and the HBV, begin negotiations with banking employers in Frankfurt today over their claims for up to 6.5 per cent pay increases, a shorter working week and an immediate ban on redundancies.

But the chief union negotiator, Klaus Carlin of HBV, is warning that the smooth introduction of the euro could be seriously disrupted as the 470,000 banking staff refuse to do extra work.

This could bring the introduction of the single currency to a standstill if other Euro-



Birth of the euro

pean banks feel the Germans are unable to cope with transactions denominated in the euro. Banks, including those in Britain, are demanding huge amounts of overtime from their staff to enable them to be ready for the euro.

German banks want Saturday treated as a normal working day, and to scrap the 13th month — the annual bonus of a month's pay given to many German employees.

But the unions want the working week cut from 39 to

35 hours to create greater employment.

"Under German law we are limited in the amount of industrial action we can undertake at this stage of the negotiations," Christiane Zerfass, a spokeswoman for HBV, said yesterday.

But preparations for the smooth entry of the euro (and to ensure information systems are millennium-bug free) require an enormous amount of extra work, and we could simply refuse to do this."

The threat of disruption within the biggest member of the single currency zone is causing consternation in the City. Even though Britain is not joining the single currency, tens of thousands of employees will be working round the clock over the New Year holiday to ensure its smooth entry.

Mr Carlin said yesterday that German banks had excellent profits and must reward

their employees as well as shareholders and directors.

"Banking staff have been forced to enjoy real cuts in pay and need to catch up... Given the demands on their time this year the banks must stop shedding staff so employees do not drown in weekend working and overtime."

The mood among staff has been inflamed by plans by Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest financial institution, to hive off its retail banking operations into a separate company. The unions say this could mean 17,000 staff will no longer be covered by national agreements on pay and conditions, and they say other big German banks are waiting to follow suit.

"This could leave our national agreement with as many holes as a Swiss cheese," Ms Zerfass said.

Billy glasses over the cracks, page 5; Dollar rivalry, page 12



BARRY Horne, above, the animal rights activist, called off his hunger strike after 68 days last night. He was moved back into hospital from prison in order to be given liquids high in vitamins and protein.

His protest ended without any concession from the Government on animal experiments and amid claims that his hunger strike had been a fraud. Report, page 2

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UK news
Days after the IRA pulled out of weapons handover, an airport security officer became the first to be arrested.

International
The race to build the world's tallest building is being led by Hong Kong, which has plans for a 1,883ft glass-clad tower.

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City job losses 'could reach 80,000'

Employers disguise real scale of sackings by making use of part-time and temporary staff

Lisa Buckingham and Jill Treanor

MORE than 80,000 jobs could be lost in the City of London, according to a survey by the City of London Corporation, which is widely used as the benchmark for cutbacks, with its recent move to axe 5 per cent of its workforce. But even the most conservative

The figure is far higher than the headline job losses which the City's biggest banks and finance houses are admitting. Merrill Lynch, the leading US firm, is widely used as the benchmark for cutbacks, with its recent move to axe 5 per cent of its workforce. But even the most conservative

estimates have started to put the cull at 30,000, or 10 per cent of the City's total workforce. Now, experts say, City firms are disguising the scale of jobs attrition by keeping secret the number of temporary and part-time staff they are sackings. Under European rules, companies are forced to announce cut backs if they involve 100 people or more. For competitive reasons, banks and insurance companies hate to admit to job losses because these reflect the state of

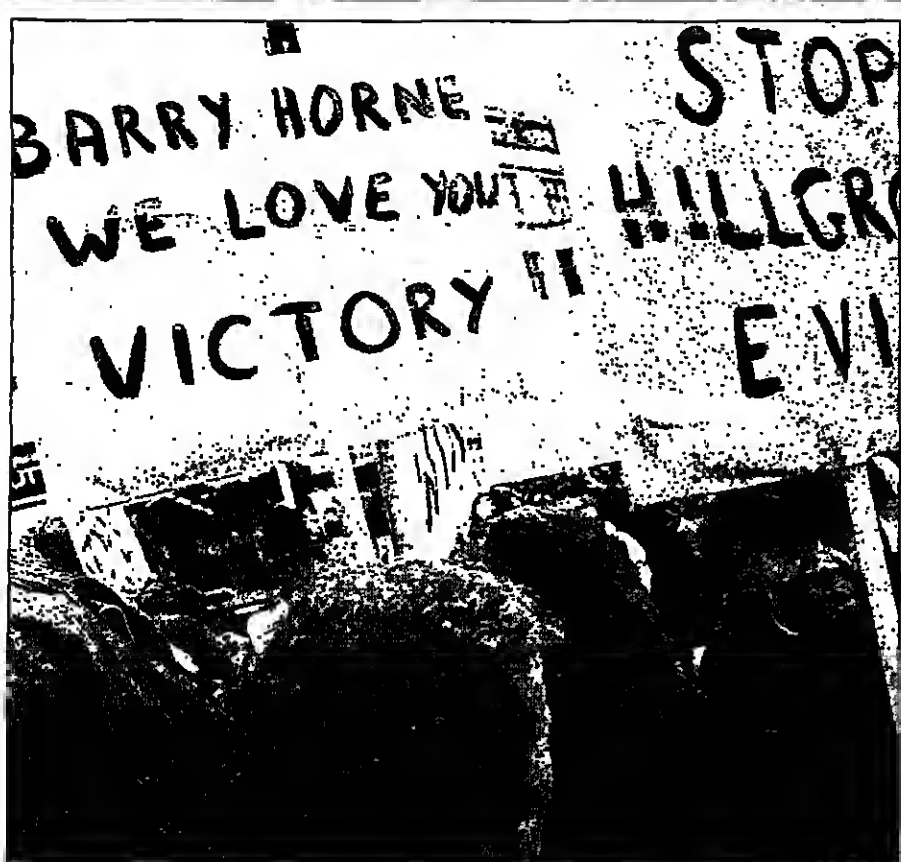
their business. It is understood that most of the big City firms are laying off their temporary employees whose departure does not have to be made public. Others are letting highly paid dealers and fund managers leave in dribs and drabs to avoid being caught by the EC disclosure rules. Roger Stears, founder and chairman of Career Vitality, estimates that for every single job cut announced another takes place behind the scenes. By his calculations, this

puts the number of jobs in the City under threat at a figure near 80,000, some of which have already disappeared. Acknowledging that his estimates are higher than some of his rivals, Mr Stears said: "No one is counting the temporary contract workers." In some firms, more than half the staff are temporary. Manpower, the employment agency, reports an upturn in demand in the City for short-term workers. "The interesting thing is that in terms of short-term contracts, our business is

quite strong," said Tony Hoskins, director of Manpower, suggesting firms are seeing contract workers as a way of giving themselves flexibility. The trend has been particularly apparent over the last two months, coinciding with the financial market turbulence which has caused such damage to the profitability of leading players. "We have probably got several hundred extra employed with us over the last two months," said Mr Hoskins. Manpower is primarily involved in placing staff into

"back office" roles rather than in the "front office" positions occupied by traders and analysts. One senior investment banker lamented that one of the cruel aspects of the current City shake-out is that so few of those now losing their jobs will ever work in the Square Mile again. The pace of change in some of the finance world is such that even the briefest absence from the trading rooms can leave traders fatally out of touch. Many of the most highly

skilled professionals now hitting the City's scrapheap are rushing to retrain, particularly in the field of information technology, where they stand a better chance of winning employment again, albeit on temporary contracts. Those whose skills will not be required during the current downturn may simply be able to view the shake-out as the chance to take a break. "What we are going to see is that people are going to rest," said Mr Stears, pointing to the similarity with "resting" actors.



Protesters show support for Horne in Oxford over the weekend. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW TESTA

Animal activist labelled a fraud as he calls off hunger strike

Will Woodward

ANIMAL rights activist Barry Horne called off his hunger strike after 68 days last night, having failed to win government support for his key demand and facing claims that the protest was a fraud. Horne, aged 46, was last night moved back from Full Sutton prison, East Yorkshire, where he is a Category A prisoner serving 12 years for firebombing, to York district hospital. The hospital said he would initially receive liquids high in vitamins and protein and he would stay there until he was fit to return to jail. "The more life the immediate threat to four named people whom the Animal Rights Militia said they would kill if Horne died. Supporters said Horne had the right to end his hunger strike and that Michael Banner, chairman of

the Government's advisory body on animal experiments, earlier demands, all subsequently junked in favour of the royal commission call. The Home Office said last night: "There has been no deal. His decision to go on hunger strike was always his own. There are no proposals on the table from the Home Office. Ministers haven't negotiated with him." A senior government source described the protest as "hopeless and futile". Horne, who has been on hunger strike since October 6, was visited yesterday afternoon in prison by his girlfriend and nominated next-of-kin, Alison Lawson, and a close friend, Tony Humphreys. He was close to calling off the hunger strike on Friday and again on Saturday but finally made his mind up yesterday. The new initiative, originally announced last Wednesday from Northampton South MP Tony Clarke, who represents Horne's home town, the Animals Beyond the Cage Coalition, releases from the Animal Procedures Committee and the parliamentary group, accompanied by a letter from him urging Horne to give up. The next day the coalition contacted the chairman of the parliamentary group, Labour MP Ian Galloway. As the propaganda campaign run by the coalition started to unravel, Horne's effort was undermined in the latter stages by statements from officials that he was not as ill as his supporters had

claimed, and that he had drunk orange juice and sugar tea during his time in hospital. Horne's supporters insist he drank orange squash and tea for only two and a half days of his hunger strike, a fortnight ago. Last Thursday, Horne was sent back to prison from the York hospital, where he had been since November 24. Officials complained his supporters' presence was disrupting the hospital. Mark Mansfield, director of the Research Defence Society and one of the people named on the animal rights assassination "hit list", said last night: "This hunger strike has been done for publicity. It is a cynical exercise which seems to have backfired on them." The other named people on the list were Oxford University scientist Colin Blakemore, Clive Page, of King's College, London, and Oxfordshire cat breeder Christopher Brown.

This has been a cynical exercise which seems to have backfired

Car wars leave kids burned up

Rory Carroll

CONFUSION on parents in the front, children in the back, the misbehaving can start within seconds. Shouting, fighting, squealing — it can turn any car journey into a nightmare. Car wars break out frequently in most families, according to a new survey. But there's a twist: parents are the miscreants. Their constant arguments and bad road manners drive their offspring demented.

Bickering, shouting, swearing at other drivers, jumping red lights and speeding can make life on the road hell, according to the survey of 700 children aged nine to 16. Conducted by the Opinion Research Business for the CGU Insurance company, it found that almost a quarter of children said their parents were guilty of speeding. Thirty nine per cent were accused of shouting and swearing. London parents were the most likely to be rude, while the Scottish

were the most polite. Midlands parents were the most likely to tell their children to be quiet. Those in the South-west of England were the most tolerant. London parents were the most likely to break into song, with 61 per cent crooning along to the car radio. Parents in Yorkshire sang the least. Rob Maynard, an RAC spokesman, said: "This is clearly a case of children getting their own back. For many years now, children in the back seat have been

the source of arguments. But there is a serious point here, that driving is becoming increasingly stressful because of congestion, bad state of repairs, and so on." Cees Schrauwers, managing director of CGU Insurance, said drivers heeded to set a good example in road safety, courtesy and care. "This survey shows a startling lack of consideration by parents for their children's safety, health and welfare. Clearly, as parents, we should be setting our children a much better example."

The main players

Barry Horne Animal rights activist, 46, who has been on hunger strike since October 6, was visited yesterday afternoon in prison by his girlfriend and nominated next-of-kin, Alison Lawson, and a close friend, Tony Humphreys. He was close to calling off the hunger strike on Friday and again on Saturday but finally made his mind up yesterday. The new initiative, originally announced last Wednesday from Northampton South MP Tony Clarke, who represents Horne's home town, the Animals Beyond the Cage Coalition, releases from the Animal Procedures Committee and the parliamentary group, accompanied by a letter from him urging Horne to give up. The next day the coalition contacted the chairman of the parliamentary group, Labour MP Ian Galloway. As the propaganda campaign run by the coalition started to unravel, Horne's effort was undermined in the latter stages by statements from officials that he was not as ill as his supporters had

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Scandal-hit council's secret plan for pay-offs

continued from page 1
Brian Wilmore, who has not taken legal advice, has left it to the authority to make up its own mind. The council has been seeking to find a way to compensate officials and councillors who spent large sums on lawyers and accountants to defend themselves in the district auditor's inquiry. The original move to seek compensation took place in 1992, before Mr Magill had reported. The council has decided to act this week because it felt the issue had died down and it would avoid public scrutiny. Extraordinary safeguards have been imposed to prevent the press getting copies of the reports — each of which is said to be produced on embossed paper with a number prominently displayed across every sheet. The scandal centred on Dame Shirley ordering the designation of eight wards for council home sales so the Conservatives could prevent Labour winning control of the council in 1990. The resulting homeless were dumped outside the borough, some in places like the cockroach-infested Clarendon Court Hotel which was exposed in a report by the local government ombudsman, Edward Camotherley, last week.

Memorial puts composer in context

Review

Andrew Clements
Messeian in his Century
Birmingham, Radio 3

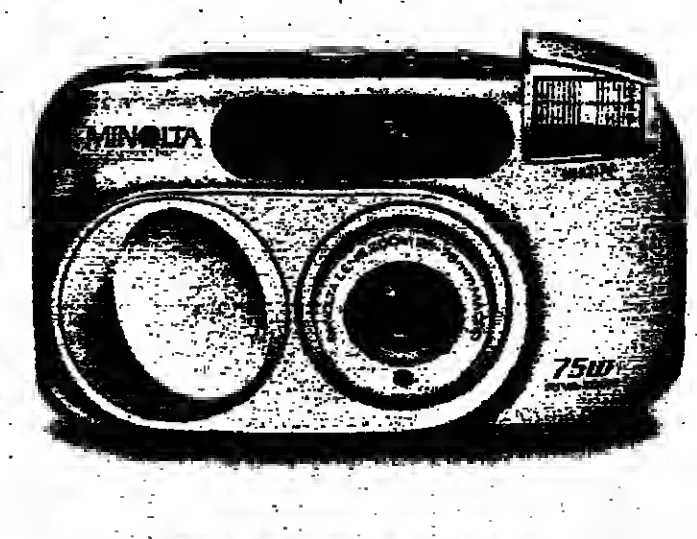
OLIVIER Messiaen, who died in 1992, would have been 90 last Thursday. The anniversary was honored in London's concert halls, but Birmingham and the BBC did his memory proud. A marathon evening of concerts, all broadcast live and interspersed with discussions and talks (almost like the old

days on Radio 3), began with the pianist Peter Donohoe wickedly juxtaposing Albaniz with Stockhausen, Scriabin with Dukas, to conjure up the musical world out of which Messiaen developed and the new territory that he helped to colonise, and ended with a recital from the Oratory Church in Edgbaston, in which Gillian Weir surveyed some of the landmarks in his oeuvre, the creative thread that ran through Messiaen's whole life. But the heart of the evening was a concert in the CBSO Centre, given by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group conducted by George

Benjamin, and offering yet another context: Messiaen's significance to the generations of composers who followed. The list of those who studied with him, from Pierre Boulez to Benjamin himself, reads like a roll call of some of the most important figures of our time. The centrepiece of the BCMG programme was the longest of all Messiaen's solo piano pieces, La Roussarde Effrante (The Red Warbler), played by the phenomenal Pierre-Laurent Aimard as if his life depended upon it. This extravagant evocation of nature among the marshes of central France has never seemed so vital, so packed with

minutely observed detail. The lack of similarities between Xenakis's prolix and over-insistent Jalousie, Benjamin's At First Light, still startlingly brilliant 16 years after it was written, and Boulez's touching, delicate Memorials, all vividly delivered by BCMG, had demonstrated how individuality was never stifled in those famous composition classes, and there were specially commissioned tributes from pupils too. If it was as far removed from anything in Messiaen's own musical world as could be imagined today, for that very reason it made an utterly revealing memorial.

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Lord Grade, with trademark cigar... The one-time charleston champion became a vital force in British TV, and among many other shows was responsible for Jesus of Nazareth (top right) and The Saint

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID NILLITON

Lord Grade, showbiz colossus, dies at 91

Tributes poured in to the man who more than any was ITV's founding father. **Janine Gibson reports**

LORD Lew Grade, Britain's most legendary showbiz entrepreneur and the man who shaped commercial television, died early yesterday at the age of 91, prompting a wave of tributes from the film and television industry.

Lord Grade entered the London Clinic two weeks ago for surgery and subsequently developed heart failure. He died with close family members at his bedside.

As chairman for 20 years of Associated Television, he was

the executive behind many of ATV's most enduring hits, including *Robin Hood*, *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, *Emergency Ward 10*, *The Saint*, *Crossroads* and *The Muppets*.

Leading the tributes yesterday, the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, said: "Lord Grade was a giant in the world of popular entertainment and he made an enormous contribution to the development of commercial television in Britain."

Lord Grade's friends and colleagues yesterday paid

tribute to his energy and enthusiasm. Bob Baker, producer of one of Lord Grade's biggest television successes, *The Saint*, said: "He was the last of the great ones, an original. He lived showbiz and no-one made a greater contribution to television in the 1950s and 1960s."

Lord Grade's secretary and friend of 35 years, Marcia Stanton, said he would never give up. "I used to ask him from time to time if we shouldn't stop and retire but he would just press on." Her personal memory would be of his great humour.

The film director Michael Winner said: "He was totally unique. Lew was the epitome of the word entrepreneur."

The film producer Lord Putnam spoke to Radio 4's

The World This Weekend about his friend. "I've never known anyone quite like him. I loved him, and that is not an exaggeration. He was ebullient, incredibly generous with his time, and over the years, with his money. He was a great man."

Sir John Birt, director-general of the BBC, said in a statement: "He was a life force — a man of great verve and enterprise — who helped give ITV its character, and its viewers enormous entertainment and pleasure."

Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC chairman, said: "Lew was the last of the great entertainers, a man who realised that TV and life should be fun — the most powerful force in TV of his day."

He will be greatly missed." But Lord Grade was revered throughout the entertainment industry for his ability not only to spot a show but to make a deal.

Knighted for his services to export in 1969, he also won the Queen's award for industry in 1967.

Noted for his ever-present Monte Cristo cigars and his constant patter, Lord Grade was an obsessive deal-maker who took no holidays and professed to have no hobbies. He was made a life peer in 1976 by the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, with the title of Lord Grade of Epsom.

He claimed he would retire in 2001, despite having been forced to retire from the board of his beloved ATV at the age of 70, when most

Top Grade

- **Robin Hood** One of Associated Television's earliest, and most celebrated, hit series in the 1950s
- **The Saint** The legendary Saint character, originally played in the 1960s by Roger Moore
- **The Persuaders** Roger Moore again, this time in the early 1970s with Tony Curtis
- **Jesus of Nazareth** Critically acclaimed 1976 epic — although, according to showbiz legend, Lord Grade asked if it could be made with only six apostles

- **The Muppets** From the 1970s to the present day, Kermit and Miss Piggy might never have made it were it not for Lew Grade
- **Crossroads** The long-running ITV soap opera, famed for its wobbling cardboard sets, ran for more than 10 years before the Midlands motel of the title shut its doors for good in the late 1970s
- **Emergency Ward 10** Long before ER or Casualty, *Emergency Ward 10* was the doctors and nurses drama of popular choice. It ran from 1957 to 1967



Where would we be without Lew? ... Lord Grade backed the Muppet Show

'The last of the great entertainers, he realised TV and life should be fun — the most powerful force in TV of his day'

Fancy footwork and dazzling spiel made him into Mr Entertainment

Nancy Banks-Smith

LOUIS B. Mayer chose July 4 as his birthday because it sounded suitably cock-a-hoop and Yankee Doodle. Olga Winogradski, who had the greatest confidence in her children, chose December 25 for the birthday of her son, Lew.

It may have been his birthday. As they were one jump ahead of the Cossacks at the time, it's hard to say.

Lew Grade was in many respects a mythical creature, or, as they say in show business, fabulous. You felt he had heard about the Hollywood film moguls, those big predators with a gut sense of what the public wanted, and decided he was going to be just like that.

Goldwynism grew on him like barnacles. All he claimed, untrue. The one about it being cheaper to lower the Atlantic than to

raise the Titanic. The one about economising on the number of apostles in Jesus of Nazareth. The one about making Underwater Rabbi to counter the big hit of the day, *The Flying Nun*. He was such an entertaining character, it was a pleasure to write lines for him.

Olga's reply to the Queen Mother was, however, well authenticated. "You must be very proud of your children."

"And so must you, my dear, and so must you."

Lew's death at 91 has eclipsed the gaiety of the season for me. For 40 years or so, in good times and bad, he gave critics a Christmas dinner, always with a bobby-dazzling spiel about some implausible upcoming project, and, until recently, a spirited burst of the Charleston.

At 19 he actually was the Charleston Champion of the World (judge: Fred Astaire), having learned acrobatic Russian dances from his father.

That was how he started in show business. His act was a frenzied Charleston on a tiny table. If he did not hit dead centre, everything collapsed. Something of a metaphor for show business, as he was to discover.

The enduring thing about him was his friendliness. The small, circular body seemed to radiate warmth. With the exception of Mike Todd, I never knew anyone like him for the big gesture. I cannot guarantee that this generosity extended to business. Lord Delfont's autobiography resounds with the crumb of big brothers colliding ("I pleaded family loyalty, I pleaded wife and daughter, I pleaded lots of things, but Lew was adamant"). But as Godfrey Winn said about God: "I don't care what they say. He was always perfectly sweet to me."

Once he took a plane load of us to Hollywood, where I became, rather unwillingly, an

officer of the starship Enterprise. ("The above named officer, having indicated a willingness to engage in hazardous assignment, is ordered to report for lift off immediately"), and then on to eerie Las Vegas, where Johnny Weissmuller, the greatest Tarzan, was gliding handily from his wheelchair for his keep.

To get a letter saying Lew's Christmas dinner would be a little late this year was strange enough to be worrying. I saw a cushion embroidered with "If I can't smoke cigars in heaven then I simply shall not go — Mark Twain." That, I thought, will do nicely for Lew.

In the circumstances, I would prefer Mark Twain's better known remark that reports of his death have been greatly exaggerated.

Lew was always such tremendous fun. With him you felt entertainment was entertaining.

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"There is a growing feeling that police officers are not valued either by their chief officers or by the Government. I can't remember morale ever being lower even in the bad days of '74 and '75 when officers were being paid less than bus crews."

The dark side of the force — Duncan Campbell reports

Blair glosses over EU summit cracks



Birth of the euro

Michael White on worries about Britain's position in Europe, and uncertainty over the impending launch of the euro, left largely unassuaged after the weekend's meeting in Vienna

TONY Blair yesterday spearheaded a ministerial offensive to assert that Britain "probably has a stronger position in Europe today" than for decades, despite the launch of the single currency in three weeks that will sharply divide the 11 "euro-zone" from the four "outs".

After his return from the European Union's weekend summit in Vienna, the Prime Minister and senior colleagues took to the airwaves to reassure voters that no essential national interest had been threatened in the two days of negotiations, and that — contrary to reports in the Euro-sceptic press — "I don't think it's been a very bruising summit for us at all".

Brushing aside talk of a battle over Britain's £2 billion annual rebate, he said the real battle in Vienna had been between northern EU states which want to stabilise the union's budget, and "some of the poorer southern countries saying they want more money spent in Europe".

By two crucial tests, being policy decisions and media spin, Mr Blair's achievement in Vienna was negative. After weeks of what former Tory chancellor Kenneth Clarke yesterday denounced as "high-pitched, Euro-hysteria" in some newspapers, Mr Blair kept the budget off most of Britain's weekend front pages. But, in the present uncertainty over the euro, that calm atmosphere will not last.

Yesterday, George Soros — the Hungarian-American financier who reputedly made a \$1 billion killing on sterling's exit from the EU's exchange rate mechanism in 1992 — renewed his warning that the pound may suffer extreme fluctuations as the relative strengths of the euro and the US dollar are tested in coming months.

That claim was denied by the Treasury minister Stephen Byers, who said "tough decisions" taken since Gordon Brown became Chancellor will protect sterling's position as a strong currency.

Privately, ministers are hoping for the best, although Mr Byers said on Sky TV that "there may be speculation, not just affecting the pound, but across the world. I think we need to look very carefully at that".

Today, the Tory leader William Hague will launch a fresh onslaught against a range of EU policy ambitions such as tax harmonisation and budgetary aims, as well as the euro, which he is pledged to resist until it is proved a success or failure by 2005/06. He will also cite the Vienna communiqué to prove what he believes is the step-by-step success of the integrationist agenda within the EU.

Mr Blair yesterday praised Lady Thatcher for "standing firm for Britain's interests". But Mr Hague claims that the Prime Minister is going with the flow of integration, whatever his rhetoric. The Tories meanwhile still hanker after a "special relationship" between Europe and the US — as they have for 50 years.

Combative support for the Government's "keep calm" approach came yesterday from Mr Clarke, writing in the Observer. More cautious was Douglas Hurd, who warned against "over-excitement" and "over-enthusiasm". But John Major's long-serving foreign secretary reminded Mr Blair that he would find it as hard as Mr Major to manage the media debate.

One reason for this week-end's relative media calm was the summit's second negative achievement: the postponing of divisive decisions on budget reform, Greece, Portugal, Ireland and, above all, Spain, stand to lose as the euro is introduced prior to the arrival of even poorer newcomers from eastern Europe.

Those decisions will be taken in March under the rotating EU presidency of Germany, whose Social Democratic coalition will be eager to prove to its own sceptical voters that it can do even better than the ousted Helmut Kohl at defending Bonn's interests and their taxes, which sustain the EU budget.



The shop man: 'The customers can pay as they like — no problem'

THE EURO has not yet penetrated the dramatic world of Tony Macpherson, who sells Amazing Live Sea Monkeys and Tales of the Wrath of Hera from a small shop in Halifax's colonnaded Piece Hall.

"I have looked into it, because we do quite a lot of mail order abroad," he says. But Belgian, Spanish and other customers of his Comedville business, which specialises in old comics and unusual toys, are currently content to pay in sterling or their own currency.

"If any of them are specially keen to pay in euros, I've made sure the bank can handle it. But it hasn't been a top-priority issue. I'm afraid I've not got round yet to thinking about euro prices in the catalogues — I must do that."

Tourists carrying euro travellers' cheques may also come his way, with the speciality shops of the Piece Hall attracting increasing numbers of visitors from the Continent. One of Yorkshire's finest buildings, where cloth merchants displayed "pieces" or samples of their goods, it attracts many foreign tourists.

"I'll have to sort out with the bank what to do if they want to pay with a euro travellers' cheque," he says, pondering items like an inflatable South Park sofa comfortably in the cheque-paying range.

"Again, it's going to be down to the bank. I think, and whether they can sort it out."

Halifax won a fame of sorts during Britain's last major currency change, when a Bradford pensioner told TV she was moving there 'because decimals will never catch on in Halifax'.

She was very wrong. Now, as 11 European countries prepare for a new common currency, the West Yorkshire town is considering the impact of the euro. **Martin Wainwright** spoke to five people about how it will affect their working lives.

PHOTOGRAPHS: KIPPA MATTHEWS



The bank manager: 'We're raising the euro's profile'

MICHELLE Taylor runs another Halifax institution, the Yorkshire Bank, under a chubby bust of its creator, Colonel Edward Atterbury, head of one of the great 18th century textile dynasties.

She and colleagues have been immersing themselves in the technicalities of the euro for months, to be ready for customers who will need to make payments or take receipts in Euros.

"European Monetary Union and the euro form one of the most fundamental recent changes to the financial environment, and I've needed to

understand in particular the new payments systems for paying and receiving euros and the potential benefits which borrowing in euros may give to some businesses."

Businesses are the most interested of her customers. Some are ahead with planning, she said, and in several cases have used the currency change for reviews of their business.

"But others have yet to begin thinking about it, and we're raising the euro's profile through leaflets to business customers."

Personal customers have not made many Euro inquiries. Mrs Taylor estimates Britain's "out" status means little impact on them for now. "The main area of inquiry has been the availability of euro travellers' cheques — available from the outset — and currency, which doesn't come in until January 2002."



The travel agent: 'It will make our life easier'

IN HALIFAX'S new Woolshops complex, a mixture of modern redevelopment and cobbled terrace streets, Adele Bradley is busy selling holidays at Travelworld — and thinking that euro travellers' cheques might eventually make life easier for customers.

"That's probably going to be the best thing. If people on holiday in Europe can change them at the same rate, say, that you get in France for travellers' cheques in francs. Or when they can just use them directly to pay at shops or restaurants."

She and her staff at the branch have kept pace with the euro. But there has been little demand for information as yet.

Adele says: "We've had one or two inquiries about the euro and foreign currency but I don't think there's going to be much change for us until they bring in the actual notes and coins in 2002."

By then, the branch's work experience student, 15-year-old Kenneth, may have gone into the business, helped by following the slow saga of the euro's development at his Calderdale school.

In the meantime, Halifax holidaymakers won't find brochure prices in euros yet — maybe next year — and are still most likely to be offered sterling or US dollar travellers' cheques.

"But we'll see," says Adele, "because the euro is clearly going to become another currency option."

The euro — or eu etu, and even curo

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

IT may be the greatest attempt in centuries to unite Europe but most British people seem blissfully ignorant about the euro.

With three weeks to go before its launch, a poll has found that 51 per cent of people do not have a clue that the new currency is called the euro. Guesses at its name included equader, ecru, etu, eu and even the curo.

As for the value of the euro, a mere 10 per cent of people polled by BBC's Money Programme correctly said that it will be worth about 70p. Estimates of its value against the pound ranged from one penny to £2.

A mere 5 per cent knew that euro notes and coins will be introduced in the year 2002, three years after 11 EU countries lock their currencies into the EMU

next month. Most people thought they could use notes and coins in the mysterious currency from next year. The BBC interviewed 1,000 at the end of last month for the survey.

Both sides of the European debate claimed last night that the poll vindicated their positions. Denis MacShane, the pro-European Labour MP for Rotherham who is a ministerial aide in the Foreign Office, said: "If 51 per cent of people have not heard of the euro that means that there are a lot of people who have. I'm surprised that there are so many people who have heard of the euro. This shows that there is a very high recognition factor for the euro."

However, John Redwood, the Euro-sceptic shadow trade and industry secretary, said that the survey showed that people were not keen on the euro. "The Government is too scared to name a date for the referendum."



The big business: 'We will not be having much time off'

BERNARD Muldoon has lived with the euro for 17 months as full-time manager, euro planning at Halifax plc. "It was only in May that we finally had it confirmed which the 'in' countries were

going to be," he says, and the pace of events hasn't slowed. "It will peak over the new year, when his colleagues join at least 50,000 City financial staff working 24 hours for up to three days on converting bonds into Euros before trading starts on January 4."

"We have operations in Spain and Luxembourg which are 'in' countries," says Mr Muldoon. "And three investment funds — two based in London, one in Leeds — which trade in bonds in the 'wholesale' market (local authority clients, or pension

funds) and may deal in euros. They'll not be having much time off at new year."

Individual account or mortgage-holders won't see such hectic change, though payment services, cheques and Visa cards will all be adapted to take the new currency. Mr Muldoon, who sits below a surfing poster warning "If you're not riding the wave of change, you'll find yourself underneath it", reckons that 2002, when euro coins and notes arrive, will see the big shift for the man and woman in the street.



The small business: 'It makes things hard to plan'

ALUN Gabriel runs a specialist foreign trading business, Export Partners, from Dean Clough mill, the largest carpet factory in the world in the days of the 19th century Crossley family.

Surrounded by trade directories of every EU state, his euro-dealings have been dogged, like other small businesses, by the Government's wavering over whether to go in or stay out.

"It makes things hard to plan on a long term basis," he said. The uncertainty does not have a major effect on his business, which finds foreign distributors for British exporters, but may be an irritation as the new currency becomes an alternative means of payment.

"The bank will be able to handle it, as just another currency option," he said. "And payment will remain possible in pounds. The practical effects will come from the level at which they set the euro — at the present level, I don't think many customers will change to it."

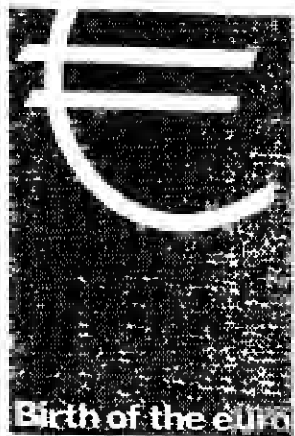
Government talk of a referendum on whether to join is his main complaint. "It's a real cop-out. They've got millions of economists working for them, but they fall back on us to tell them what's best on a very complicated financial decision."

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In the first of a series on four countries' reaction to the single currency, Ian Traynor reports from Rothwesten, the birthplace of the Deutschmark

Mark of pride in German nation

EUROPE'S most successful currency was born 50 years ago as a shipment of doorknobs carried out amid absolute secrecy. Europe's single currency will be born in little more than a fortnight, ending half a century of the Deutschmark during which Germany has risen from ruin to become the world's third economic power. It is a transformation in which the mark has wielded totemic power for Germans. As the paramount symbol of the post-war republic it has been a source of pride and prosperity. It is not easy for them to forget it for an untested euro, "I don't like the name, the euro, and I don't buy this myth of sameness and unity," says Annette Kursen, aged 26, an art historian. "Everybody I know is frightened."

That's a question with which Germany's political leaders have been struggling for years. But over the past decade the former chancellor, Helmut Kohl, drove the euro past the point of no return and cajoled his countrymen into going along with him. His successor, Gerhard Schröder, shares neither that millennial messianism nor the boldness to go sharply against the grain of public opinion. But the man who described the single currency as a "premature sickly infant" is, like most Germans, resigned to making it work.

"We're condemned to succeed. We have to create the conditions for a successful euro," he told the Bundestag in Bonn last week. "The euro has passed its first tough test on the markets with flying colours. Its acceptance by the public constantly grows." Indeed, while opinion polls for the past three years have shown a majority against the



Children in West Berlin watch a US plane bring in supplies to circumvent the Russian blockade, introduced by Stalin in 1948 after 10 men and a woman drafted the laws to create the Deutschmark. They worked shrouded in secrecy in the Rothwesten military compound (below)



euro, a survey published on Friday showed for the first time a slim majority in favour. Germans are generally keen on the more abstract notions of Europe and integration. When it comes to the money in their purses, wallets, and bank accounts, however, Euro-scepticism holds sway. But they will have to like it or lump it: the

Deutschmark's 50th birthday this year is also its funeral. For seven weeks in 1948 at a hilltop military barracks in Rothwesten, a village in central Germany, 10 men and one woman crunched the numbers and drafted the laws which heralded the new currency. The mark's birth on June 20 was a formative mo-

ment in the cold war and nearly sparked a hot war. Stalin mounted the Berlin blockade in protest and the US and Britain launched the 14-month Berlin airlift. The collapse of Rothwesten was so clandestine that the participants, 10 German currency and legal experts and a 27-year-old Harvard graduate and Pol-

ish immigrant to the United States, did not even know where they were for the first five weeks and were warned by US soldiers they would be shot if they tried to leave the barbed-wire compound. The result of their deliberations was the printing in the US of 1,100 tonnes of paper into 20 mark notes, which were shipped to the northern port of Bremerhaven in 28,000 wooden crates. The secret cargo had "doorknobs" stencilled on the boxes. That's all history to Alexandra, aged 24, a student of Italian and English, who is happy to live in a Europe where the internal borders are open and who relishes the prospect of not having to change money when she pops down to Milan, hops on the train to Lyon, or takes the ferry to Folkestone. "It will be much more pleasant to have just one currency in Europe. Most of the people I know think the same. Maybe it's a question of age."

But even her enthusiasm is mixed with reservations. "The disadvantage is that the D-mark has been stable, but the Italians, the Greeks and the Spanish don't have stable currencies." "Stability" has been the watchword of the political class in seeking to persuade Germans to abandon the mark, hence the "stability pact". Bonn insisted on — the regime of budget deficit ceilings and fines for European Union miscreants. This fixation on stability caused colossal rows between the Kohl government and France. The Schröder administration is much closer to the French position than was Mr Kohl's. "We're going to have to brace ourselves," says Mr Gottschalk, the former civil servant. "We've no idea what we've let ourselves in for."

Next: The Netherlands

Why I love the euro ...



Alfred Kossinger: 'Everything stagnates; it's time for a change'

ALFRED KOSSINGER, aged 62, is a spirited retired policeman from Kassel and ex-Luftwaffe fighter pilot who took part in the Spanish civil war and the Battle of Britain. He supports the single currency.

"I'M LOOKING forward to the birth of the euro. It's a new era. Time doesn't stand still. The German mark has been good and stable, but it doesn't have the purchasing power it once had. And we've fought for this Europe for a long time. The euro is not going to bring heaven on earth, but

everything stagnates and it's time for a change. Business is in favour of the euro and that's telling. It will be much easier for firms to do business abroad. The euro means that the producer who makes good things at a good price will have his nose forced open. People are very divided and they say we haven't really been consulted. But we weren't asked the purchasing power it once had. And we've fought for this Europe for a long time. The euro is not going to bring heaven on earth, but

been general elections. We elect the politicians to take those decisions. But even in the Bundesbank, they're divided about the euro, like in the rest of the country. What's wrong with that? That's good. That's democracy. There's no alternative now anyway so we might as well get used to it. I think that if we want a common Europe and we don't have a common language, then we might as well have a common currency.

Why I hate the euro ...



Rita Nienhaus: 'No one knows what will happen. I'm afraid'

RITA NIENHAUS, a 40-year-old psychologist from Bonn, is against the single currency. "I REMINDS me of former Yugoslavia. The kind of forced unity imposed dictatorially and look what happened there. I'm against it generally. That kind of pressure can have the opposite effect, causing tension that pulls Europe apart. Perhaps in the longer term there should be a single currency, but first there should be political unity. The euro has come too fast."

It is centralising and standardising. I prefer a Europe where the democracies preserve their individuality. Besides, every country has to run its own budget and solve its own problems. There's a lack of transparency. And there's a lot of uncertainty, especially with so much unemployment. No one knows what will happen. I'm a bit afraid. There hasn't been enough debate about all this. Until about two years ago, it was controversial and it was debated. But it became clear during [this year's German] election

campaign that there was no chance of opposing the euro because it was so closely connected with Kohl. It's important to be critical and to discuss things, but now it's not even questioned because people know there is no choice. There should have been a referendum. It seems to me that the euro is all about power and who will have the most influence. But countries in the European Union can support each other without all that centralism. It's coming too early.

Unarmed watchdogs on the road to fragile peace

Chris Bird in Samodraza

CHRIS Cobb-Smith gazed through a pair of binoculars down a dirt road at two distant figures carrying rifles and moving about the village of Samodraza in Kosovo.

"They're KLA," the former British army officer said of the two ethnic Albanian fighters with the Kosovo Liberation Army, fighting the Yugoslav government here for independence. "They're a bit of a worry so we're letting them know we're here."

Mr Cobb-Smith, who until recently was inspecting weapons sites in Iraq, is now with the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) deployed by the OSCE security organisation to make sure the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, keeps his word on troop withdrawals from the war-stricken territory.

Serb forces destroyed thousands of homes, forcing up to 300,000 people to flee in a summer offensive aimed at smashing popular support for the separatist guerrillas in Kosovo, where about 90 per cent of the population are ethnic Albanians.

Milosevic halted the violence only under threat of a Nato air bombardment and reluctantly agreed to an unarmed international observer force in Kosovo. The previous day, Mr Cobb-Smith saw a Serb police patrol come across a lone KLA fighter crossing the road in front of them. The Serb shot at the guerrilla, who managed to

run for cover and fire an anti-tank round at the patrol before disappearing. Mr Cobb-Smith and 70 other British monitors — Britain will eventually send 200 to the planned 2,000-strong mission — say their task is to stand between the warring sides with only their Landrovers to protect them.

But there is confusion over the French-led Nato force now assembling in Macedonia. The 1,700-strong force, including 300 British soldiers due to arrive this week, is meant to use helicopters to rescue monitors in danger.

But in an interview in The Washington Post yesterday, Mr Milosevic said that any Nato rescue mission would be regarded by Yugoslav troops as an act of war. With neither the Yugoslav government nor the guerrillas anywhere near a compromise, the conflict over Kosovo's future threatens to reignite when the snows melt in spring.

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News in brief

Safety gear 'removed'

EQUIPMENT that allowed aircraft to land safely in bad weather was removed from the airport in Surat Thani six months before a Thai Airways plane crashed last week, killing 101 people, aviation sources said yesterday.

The plane, an Airbus A310-200, made two attempts to land in heavy rain at the airport in the southern Thai town on Friday before crashing into a swamp.

The airport's Instrument Landing System (ILS) had been removed during construction work to extend the runway, said an air traffic control official. A Thai air force pilot who flew into the airport yesterday said pilots had to use a less accurate radio navigation system. — Reuters

Iraqi sites searched

UNITED NATIONS inspectors visited 25 places yesterday on the last day of their current round of searches for Iraq's il-

legal weapons, Iraqi and UN officials said.

Experts from the UN Special Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency carried out surprise and scheduled checks, the Iraqi News Agency said. — Reuters

Reduction in violent crime

A DROP in the number of robberies and murders helped improve the figures for violent crime in the US in the first six months of the year, continuing a downward trend that began in 1992, the FBI said.

The FBI said robberies decreased by 11 per cent, while murders declined by 8 per cent compared with the same period in 1997. — Reuters

Statehood referendum

PUERTO RICANS voted yesterday on whether to petition for statehood in the US.

The referendum pitted statehood advocates against defenders of its status as a US commonwealth. — AP

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Comment

e-mail

Jon Henley
@Paris

IN Amsterdam central station there is a small handwritten notice, in French, English and Dutch, taped to a pillar near an escalator leading to a new train that speeds you straight to Paris.

"Attention," this notice says helpfully. "Beware. You are leaving Holland, where you will no doubt be aware that a lot of things are permitted, and travelling to France, where most of these things are forbidden. Behind you are several wastepaper bins. Please make use of them if you wish."

It is an unfortunate fact, in these days of ever-closer European integration, that being caught in France with a few ounces of Dutch dope (this year's biggest hitters, according to the blowers' bible, *Essensie*, are Jack Herer, Northern Lights and Haze) leaves you open to 30 years in prison. Whereas in Amsterdam, providing the pot is really potent, you win prizes for it.

This sad failure of EU harmonisation would not be worth recounting were it not that a lot of French people actually smoke pot, even though the word for it here is, unaccountably, "shit". Not only that, but they talk about it as if it was a 1986 Puligny-Montrachet or a 1974 Gevrey-Chambertin.

Last Friday, at a perfectly ordinary party in a flat near the Bastille, Jean-Yves produced a joint called Mr Nice. This is apparently a particularly brain-crushing cross between G13 Nederwiet and the legendary Hashplant, winner of the first-ever Amsterdam Cannabis Cup a few years ago.

In Holland, when the weed is especially winning, the response is very Dutch. Woof, hoo-er-hoor, where did you get that from? At this party in Paris, Béatrice, a radio reporter, said, and I quote: "The most important thing for me is the nose. It also has to be a bit of a cunt." I also look for a high that doesn't make me stupid — one that's distributed evenly around the skull, not concentrated on your forehead."

Alain, a sometime musician who was giving the party, said that personally, he preferred the kind of "shit" that left him unable to talk about it sensibly afterwards.

THE point of all this is that the French allow you many things: they allow you to gorge yourself on six-course lunches without feeling guilty, they positively encourage you to drink at least three glasses of red wine a day, they are never happier than when you smoke a cigarette where it is expressly forbidden to do so and they will not even consider you for head of state unless you have a mistress or two. But their attitude to soft drugs is absurd.

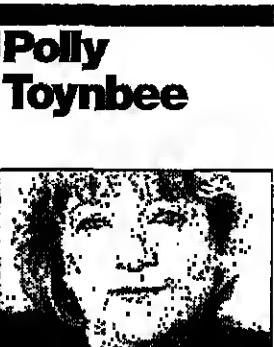
There are fewer drug-related deaths per capita in the Netherlands than in almost any other EU country and the number of heroin addicts has fallen by over a third since the mid-1980s.

I make no point other than that the official French stance is hypocritical. Oh, and that on no account should you inhale Mr Nice.

The Heart of Europe (latest pictures)



Blair must have the courage to tackle the causes of teenage pregnancies



Polly Toynbee

LIGHT the blue newspaper and stand well back — there are some subjects on which the Government can't avoid igniting fire. If the Daily Mail doesn't damn it when it comes out, it won't be worth the paper it's written on. If they don't brand it the permissive society gone mad, it'll be a waste of time. There is growing suspicion this paper has been delayed due to political anxiety. Words can't paper over this crack — the policy has to work and teenage pregnancies must be reduced. Four task forces led jointly by Tessa Jowell at Health and Estelle Morris at Education were about to publish a strategy when suddenly on the last day before the summer recess, Tony Blair unexpectedly handed the whole issue over to his Social Exclusion Unit — to report in December. But the timetable has slipped twice since then: now the date is March. No, swears the Social Exclusion Unit, this has nothing to do with politics — teenage pregnancy is a very complex subject.

They have taken tomes of evidence, visited other countries — Holland, which has a rate one tenth that of Britain, and the US where rates are higher. They have pursued all the research. Last week it was the turn of the reactionaries to give evidence. Victoria Gillick, now a Life adviser to young pregnant girls, Valerie Riches of Family and Youth Concern and leaders of the Conservative family campaign all trooped into the Cabinet Office to have their say. Gillick told them to adopt one simple clear message for the young: "Just Say No" to all sex. Contraception is dangerous because they misuse it, condoms fall off and they forget to take the pill. Worse, offering contraception sends out the wrong message that teenage sex is officially OK. Giving in to the sexualised culture all around us is just a counsel of despair, short-changing the young.

Brook Advisory, which runs contraception clinics for the young, loses out with growing trepidation. Does the Government imagine that there is some third way here, where Gillick can be placated? There is only one real question: will the Government Just Say No to the Daily Mail? My guess is that they will, eventually, because there is no alternative. The evidence of what needs to be done is overwhelming and the Social Exclusion Unit is serious about social policy. They can't ignore evidence like this: young pregnancies are lowest nearest to well-publicised clinics for the young; numbers rise every kilometre further away. In identical social areas, teen pregnancies vary widely, depending on quality of sex education and youth clinics.

THE SEU is exploring the deeper root causes. Half of teenagers reject abortion, because nothing else in their life offers them anything better. Middle-class girls have abortions and carry on with education, but poor girls, already failing at school, drop out into motherhood. Half of all girls leaving care have babies before or soon after leaving. Half the daughters of teenage mothers from poor homes themselves become teenage mothers. Why?

History may well reveal that Lord Cranborne was really sacked for refusing to wear a blazer and flannels in the House of Lords

ther investigation revealed a disturbing sequence of events.

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cian to advertise since Stanley Baldwin recommended Edgar Wallace's detective stories as a way to relax. No doubt the House of Commons authorities will embark on the necessary enquiries.

There is an alternative explanation. It is that Francis Maude — Abington School and Corpus Christi, Cambridge, not to mention son of a Tory grandee — was anxious to demonstrate that he is a bloke, a chap, a lad, an ordinary sort of fellow, one of us and the type of man you would gladly have a pint with in a pub on the Old Kent Road. I will not suggest that I would have preferred him to accept a £20,000 back-hander — a crime of which I do not believe him to be guilty. But it is a close run thing.

The best I have known in politics — Jenkins, Crosland, Healey, Castle and Callaghan — never condescended to pretend that they were not. I do not subscribe to Clare Short's take-me-or-leave-me theory of government which requires

the public to love ministers for their inadequacies in a way which, were it suggested for any other trade, would be regarded as an excuse for continual failure. But trying to improve performance is quite different from attempting to change image. At the last Cabinet meeting before the 1979 election, Jim Callaghan said he would not be sacked like his opponent. I applauded him for his decision then and 20 years later (two decades after my ministerial career came to an end) I applauded him for it still.

Maude's only excuse is the desperation of the Conservative Party. The shirt is part of the process which brought us William Hague's baseball cap and all those woolly jumpers at the 1992 Committee weekend get-togethers. History may well reveal that Lord Cranborne was really sacked for refusing to wear a blazer and flannels in the Lords. We used to say in Sheffield: "If you can't fight, wear a big hat." If you have no policies, wear a loud shirt.

Our £2 billion EU rebate isn't worth defending to the death

Spoilt for choice

Peter Preston



THERE are, remember, always alternatives. The alternative to waking up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat is a sleeping pill and slumbering on. The alternative to watching Michael Howard on breakfast TV is a zap of the button. And the alternative to our current world of Endless Funk — over Europe, Scottish devolution, the querulous world of an England adrift — is just as simple: to calm down and talk alternatives.

Was there any seeming alternative, seven days ago, to the humiliation Tony Blair would endure in Vienna as Red Oskar and Blue Jacques drove him from the centre of Europe, harmonising British taxes to maniac levels and pocketing our rebate in their berserk drive towards super-statism? Of course there was: it consisted, as we may now observe, of not harmonising anything, of putting chat about cash (like everything else) off till after Christmas — and of resurrecting the alternative to abolishing duty-free shopping, which is not to abolish it.

You might well ask why a Government committed to piloting tax on smokers and harmonising European booze prices up to British levels thinks this a negotiating triumph — just as you might wonder why the French and Germans, in their supposed federalist passion, also want to keep all the little airport enclaves of disharmony. But the alternative to puzzling over these bemusements (on this weekend's form) is merely to roll the Funk forward to future summits and future cataclysms for Britain.

Are there alternatives to mindless lathering about our £2 billion rebate? Of course. One such, drained of emotion, is to remark that £2 billion isn't such a fortune in the Whitehall scheme of things: indeed, that it is the precise investment sum promised last week by BMW of Britain's Rover work-force would last as long and flexibly as their German counterparts. But, increasingly, the real alternative is hard thinking.

When, over many, delayed years, the English press and the septic Tory Party thought that monetary union wouldn't happen, they could talk airily of their own, alternative vision of European development: a free-trade chicken in every pot, a union dancing to Smith Square's tune. But here's one option which is truly closed. It isn't going to happen. The alternative to being part of the Europe we have — no hearts, livers or kidneys — is not being part of it and that alternative is already honed.

ONLY five months ago, Mr Conrad Black, the Canadian owner of the Daily Telegraph, laid it out in detail. Quit the cloying, federalist community. Sign up with the USA, Canada and Mexico as a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Home is where your transatlantic heart is. The Telegraph, in a weighty leader, agreed with its owner. A variety of Conservative MPs — and senators in Washington — became greatly excited. From his American base, Mr Rupert Murdoch was reported enthusiastically. Mr Blair set one of his private study teams working. This (picking up from the title of a book I'd just written) became the 51st State alternative.

But where, pray, has it gone? Banjaxed like its eager advocate, Newt Gingrich? Or no longer Telegraph policy? Or is the cotton of NAFTA merely sleeping, to be awakened later on when the heart of Europe rejects its transplant? Come what may, though, it needs to be shaken into life now. Funk is not knowing where to turn next. A debate needs alterna-

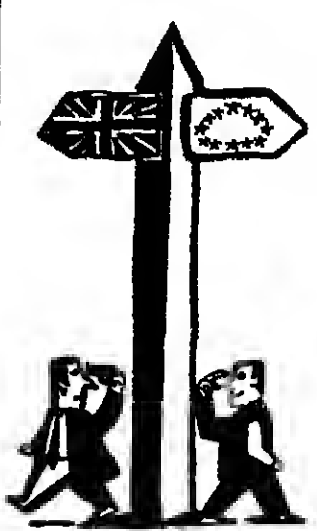
tives. This is the alternative of those (like Charles Moore) who denounce Mr Blair most vociferously. Let's put it on the table. Let's see for ourselves.

And the debate about Scotland increasingly runs in curious parallel. More funk and fury. Are the BBC Governors right to hang on to the London News at Six? Are Scottish broadcasters and politicians right to want their own news set to their own agenda? The vote has resonance because it picks open the logic of devolution as a transit zone: but the basic debate is not between Jill Dando and Kirsty Wark. It is about Scottish independence. There, another package on the table. What do we think of that?

It is, again, possible to be quite clear-eyed. The status quo, presented to the voters of Scotland at the general election, was no alternative. The Tories who presented it were wiped out. The choice, therefore, is between devolution as endorsed at the referendum or (a half mile down the track) a vote for separation.

Is that such a terrifying prospect? No one is going to war over it. The Scots will always be as interwoven in the life of these islands, and of England, as the Irish. (No barbed wire on Hadrian's Wall.) They will be part of Europe. England will take its own decision. Taxes will rise or fall according to Edinburgh's wishes. Concealed subsidies — like the BBC money the English licence-payer ploughs into Scotland — will end. A choice to be made and a price to be paid, but an alternative, to be laid out in full and put to the democratic test.

And on the morning after.



The alternative to being part of the Europe we have is not being part of it

as in Prague and Bratislava, the world will still go on (if with rather fewer Labour MPs at Westminster). The decision may or may not be desirable, or even sensible. But, as over Europe, it is not life-threatening in its consequences.

There are many more awful choices before us. The alternative to doing nothing about global warming is seeing our great grandchildren fry. The alternative to peace in the Congo and Rwanda and Burundi is death by the million. The alternative to a Europe which doesn't expand its borders is a Europe which corrodes and cracks. The alternative to not pressing the nuclear button is pressing it.

There is an English disease. It is the precise reverse of our self-imaginings. We think of ourselves as calculating and prudent, always skimming the big picture because it is the little pictures in a line that matter. But where, then, is the broader perspective? Because we don't look beyond the next corner, we confront in fear over what may lie around it.

And, of course, there is an alternative. It is deflating the specifics, not covering them in mists of paranoia. It is laying out the options, not pretending they don't exist. It is confronting what they involve. You could, I suppose, say that that means seeing ourselves for what we are. But this, for the moment, may be an alternative too far.

One of the lads

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

NEVER underestimate the cunning of this Tory party. Only last Thursday, Francis Maude appeared on Question Time wearing a jacket in another last minute attempt to avoid the scandal which is about to engulf him. But those of us who have been monitoring his behaviour for weeks were not so easily fooled. There on the screen was the evidence which confirmed our suspicions. Underneath his tie, a mass of crumpled cloth gave the game away. And his collar sagged round his neck. The literal cover-up had not worked. We were witnessing another episode in the saga of Shirtgate.

It was too late to obliterate the shameful conduct of the previous week when he appeared on a news bulletin in his shirt sleeves. The shirt was a colour that

only a canary could love. It was also several sizes too big for him. I considered the possibility that it was a hand-me-down, inherited from some immense and recently deceased relative and worn because he could not afford anything better. Then I recalled a register of members' interests argument about Mr Maude being employed by an investment company. Perhaps, I thought, it was the latest fashion — intentionally baggy at waist and elbows in the manner of the chemise that d'Artagnon chose for fencing. On reflection I realised that awful shirts could not be the latest thing. Otherwise Peter Mandelson would wear ooo!

Realisation of the ghastly truth came slowly — stimulated by the memory that Maude had been seen on "Westminster" wearing a shirt of similar cut but bright blue. "Who fished the murex up?" I asked myself at the time. "What porridge for John Keats?" And why has the shadow chancellor left his jacket in the office? Then I put the hor-

rible sight out of my mind until I saw, a week later, what it would have been reasonable to assume was a successful attempt to imitate a banana. Yellow and blue combined in the green light of scientific deduction. There must, I concluded, be some method in his sartorial madness. Further investigation revealed a disturbing sequence of events.

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150 من المال

Let reason be the judge

Clinton and the US need it

THE AMERICAN people can be forgiven for feeling like extras in a Hammer horror movie. In November they thought they had finally slain the vampire of impeachment, finally killed the monster that threatened to destroy the republic. By defying the laws of mid-term gravity, and electing more Democrats than Republicans, they believed they had stopped the beast in its tracks. Now they realise they had failed to drive a stake through its heart. While they were toasting the success of President Clinton in somehow eluding the demon's fury, the monster rose from his mid-term grave. The zombie impeachment process has kept on walking: undead, and still lethal.

This week will present a final chance for Washington to banish the spectre, or surrender to it. On Thursday the House of Representatives will vote on four articles of impeachment, the first time it has faced such a task since 1868. There is, as asserted Congressmen never tire of saying, no more

solemn duty that can befall them, short of declaring war. They are moving to overturn a national election, to reverse the stated will of the people — no small thing in a nation whose founding belief is that "we the people" are sovereign.

The four articles submitted by the House Judiciary committee detail serious charges: multiple acts of perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power. As if that were not bleak enough, the President has narrowed his own chances of reprieve by failing to win over the wavering Republican moderates, perhaps 15 or so members who might have switched to Mr Clinton's side. They said they needed to hear the President drop his trademark legalisms and admit not just that he erred, but that he did indeed lie under oath. If he admits that and accepts his own responsibility, say these Republicans, then they don't need to prosecute. But when Mr Clinton appeared before the cameras on Friday it was only to hilt his lip and confess that "I gave into my shame." No admission of perjury. Yesterday he repeated that refusal, saying he could not confess to something he didn't do.

Perhaps the desperation of the coming days will force the President to change that line, even if it would lay him open to criminal prosecution as a private individual once he leaves office. That would be a great

personal sacrifice, but if it saves the United States from a prolongation of this ordeal then it might be worth it.

Still, the burden cannot rest on Mr Clinton alone. The Congress has seen its own dignity badly damaged in these last two months. Impeachment is meant to be a solemn, deliberative process, akin to a court weighing a question of liberty. Instead, it has been conducted under the usual rules of partisan trench warfare. While the Watergate hearings were distinguished by their degree of bipartisanship — with Republicans bawlingly turning on their own president — the Zippertgate votes on the judiciary committee have run entirely on party lines. Indeed, it is a travesty, that in a country which made its distaste for impeachment all too clear in last month's elections, the milder option of a vote of censure is not even to be available to the House on Thursday — thanks to Republican obstinacy.

So in these next few days, outsiders who wish the United States well — and who would like to see a US president able to visit, say, the Middle East, as Mr Clinton is now, undistracted — should hope for an act of reason. Either the President ought to say the words those wavering Congressmen need to hear or the House should declare that what Mr Clinton did was wrong, reprehensible even, but because his deceptions arose

in the matter of a private, sexual affair, they do not rise to the level of impeachable offences. They may not even need to pass a special motion of censure. The very passage of articles of impeachment, by the judiciary committee this weekend, is humiliation enough.

Europe's slow train

The north needs a fast link too

THE GOOD news is that Eurostar could soon be running trains from Heathrow and Watford direct to continental Europe through the Channel Tunnel. The bad news is that Eurostar now wants to drop its plans to run direct services from the north of England and Scotland to the Continent because it would lose £9 million a year. Seven trains costing £180 million have been idle since Eurostar decided that regional trains to the continent were loss-making. So that's that then.

Or is it? People in the north of England and Scotland might ask why they are being deprived because Eurostar would lose £9 million when Eurostar's losses from its south-of-England operation to the continent amounted to £150 million last year. Is this loss discrimination? Moreover, the first

stage of the 68-mile fast track from the Channel to London benefits from £2.2 billion of state subsidies and more indirectly (like guaranteed loans and monopoly franchises).

No one can blame Eurostar for trying to reduce its losses but it is legitimate to ask whether the balance sheet of one company is the correct criterion for assessing the viability of a project which could create big economic gains to the regions through which it passes (just as the link from Paris did for Lyon). Governments have found it difficult enough to get a fast link built even part of the way to London yet France and the rest of Europe have built fast tracks everywhere, reducing travel times in the EU and making far-flung outposts competitive.

In Britain, not only is a new fast cross-country railway completely off the agenda, but we can't even afford to run special trains to Europe on existing track even though Britain has a budget surplus. Has no one asked the numerous cities and local authorities from London to Scotland which stand to benefit whether they would meet the £2 million a year deficit? It is a fact that Britain even now hasn't authorised a fast link from the Channel all the way to London but it is a tragedy that the rest of the country is being deprived of fast access to the centre of Europe which other far-flung European regions take for granted.

Letters to the Editor

War report and a tea break

RICHARD Norton-Taylor is correct about the formation of the Jewish Brigade in 1944 but does not mention the much earlier recruitment in Palestine of both Palestinian Arab and Jewish volunteers (Churchill backed Jewish war role, December 8). In 1941, I served with an RASC company in the Western Desert of Egypt and Libya which consisted, initially, of British officers, NCOs and technicians with Palestinian/Jewish drivers. Each British officer had a Jewish deputy, and by the time of Alamein, October 1942, the entire company had become Palestinian/Jewish, including the OC. Other RASC companies became totally Jewish in the same way, so that by 1945 all the elements of the Jewish Brigade were already well in place. JF Pattinson, Wethermere, Cambridgeshire.

THE Government deserves high praise for its imaginative and comprehensive tobacco white paper (Report December 11). The promised increases in cigarette tax will certainly be the most potent weapon in the campaign to reduce smoking-related disease. But surely it wasn't produced by the same joined-up Government which is arguing for the retention of cheap duty free cigarettes, was it? Donald Reid, Chief executive, Association for Public Health.

MAY I add to the great teatime mystery (Letters, December 11) by asking if anyone knows why, in a coffee set, the spout of the coffee pot is always sited so that it draws coffee from the bottom of the pot where the coffee grounds remain, whereas the spout of the milk jug is at the top of the jug where the skin of the hot milk floats? Surely they should be the other way round? George Hawkins, Buckland, Surrey.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we are unable to acknowledge letters.

Where the Six slipped up

ALAN Rusbridger's article about the libel suit launched against the paper in Dublin by the Birmingham Six raises interesting legal as well as moral issues (Spectrum, December 11). As most journalists and civil liberties lawyers would appreciate, the action would never have been begun in the US. There the Supreme Court has fashioned a defence for the publishers of "political information" (a category the story in issue in this case, namely the boorish political opinions of a former Tory MP, certainly falls into) — which makes it very difficult for plaintiffs to win libel actions against reputable newspapers.

In recent years, a version of the American defence has been adopted by the Australian and New Zealand courts, and by the European Court on Human Rights. The rationale in all jurisdictions for these reforms has been a simple one — in a democratic country it is vital that voters be given as much information as possible about elected politicians so that they can make informed decisions about the acceptability of the government process and of the politicians who control it. As most journalists and civil liberties lawyers would also appreciate, English courts and Irish courts have yet to reshape their respective versions of the common law to achieve a similar political purpose. And in neither jurisdiction can a defendant appeal to the case law of the Euro-

pean Court of Human Rights as a direct source of legal protection, for neither country has as yet incorporated the Convention into their domestic law, although it will have that status in the UK from January 1, 2000.

It is, of course, possible that the Irish courts will accept for the first time in the Birmingham Six case, should it come to trial, that the Irish constitution or the Irish common law should now recognise that the press and individual citizens should be afforded a substantial defence against libel suits brought in respect of political information. The Irish Supreme Court has in the past shown itself readily persuaded by American Supreme Court jurisprudence. But this would however be an uncertain line of defence for the paper to pursue. However, it seems that the Birmingham Six have blundered mightily in beginning their action in Dublin rather than London. The reason for this is not immediately apparent, but is nonetheless compelling. The Irish common law has taken them to the wrong mall. It also offers us a powerful illustration of the way in which the supposedly "undemocratic" laws of the EC would protect our democratic liberties, and those of the Irish people, much more effectively than our respective national parliaments. Prof Ian Loveland, Dept of Law, Brunel University.

by the European Court of Justice's decision some years ago to accept that member states' legal systems cannot prohibit access to their countries' courts for political reasons unless those prohibitions are compatible with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The court has in effect made Article 10 part of EC law, and the Irish courts would be required as a matter of EC law to apply its terms to evaluate the acceptability of Irish libel law if the Birmingham Six case comes before them. That law as it currently stands would undoubtedly be found wanting.

Ironically, had the plaintiffs begun their action in London, no EC law issue would have arisen, as no threat would have been posed by such libel suits to the free movement of goods, services, and people. It is also likely that, given the primitive state of our political libel laws, they would have won their action in an English court. This is thus one occasion when a plaintiff's "forum shopping" has taken him to the wrong mall. It also offers us a powerful illustration of the way in which the supposedly "undemocratic" laws of the EC would protect our democratic liberties, and those of the Irish people, much more effectively than our respective national parliaments. Prof Ian Loveland, Dept of Law, Brunel University.



The sus laws of mental health

WHILE welcoming the announcement by the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, of plans to ensure "safe, sound and supportive" mental health services, I share others' misgivings over the proposals to introduce more coercive measures, particularly in the form of compulsory treatment in the community and "renewable detention" for those identified as having personality disorders. Our concerns arise from the experience of setting up and running comprehensive community mental health services in Birmingham over the past four years.

This showed that we can implement acceptable and safe services in the community without recourse to increase in compulsory powers, either to ensure treatment or to achieve closer supervision. Active community mental health care can be achieved, through a process of engagement with service users and their families, by addressing their overall needs rather than just their "medical" problems. It is inevitable that coercive compulsory measures will be used disproportionately against minority ethnic groups, consistent with the current pattern in the use of the Mental Health Act. Service users from black communities are already at high risk of disengagement with current services, and the introduction of further coercive measures, which no doubt will be seen as the psychological equivalent of the old sus laws, will further alienate people from minority groups. The suggestion of "preventive detention" or other forms of renewable de-

tention is deeply worrying. Current debate around personality disorders and, in particular, the rush towards psychiatric imprisonment for social deviance, is a throwback to the era of the Poor Laws and workhouses. Unless the psychiatric profession in this country is prepared to resist the political expediency of the present government to substitute care and cure for control and coercion, we might well find ourselves, before too long, part of the correctional agencies. Prof P Sashidharan, Dept of Community Psychiatry, University of Birmingham.

Car crash

YOUR article on the introduction of tolls to reduce traffic congestion (Prescott promises congestion tolls, December 9), and quoting Singapore as an example, omits one significant point. In Singapore, there is a downward allowance in the increase in vehicle registrations from 5 per cent per annum growth in 1990, to 3 per cent, and eventually 0 per cent growth at all. This is in an emerging economy where many want to benefit from increased prosperity by owning a car. We should introduce a "zero increase" policy as soon as possible. This could be coupled with an idea from Hong Kong: no car if you do not have an off-road parking space, both at home and at your destination. Roger S Williams, (Ex senior lecturer, highway engineering), University of Glamorgan.

Yes to genetic research but no cloning of humans

YOU ARE right to say that there is a yuck factor at work over the possibility of human cloning (Leader, December 9) but, as with most of the current issues, it is assumed that the question exists in a moral vacuum and that there has been no thought or discussion by any authoritative body. Cloning of human beings has, in fact, been condemned by many international and inter-governmental organisations, most notably by UNESCO which issued the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights on November 11, 1997. The Declaration is based on a belief in the value of the uniqueness of every human being. Cloning would be a deliberate control of another person's genetic make-up and, as such, an affront to human dignity.

Although it is true that education and environment play important roles in the development of an individual, it is an offence against human rights for one person to choose another's genetic constitution and so decide his or her identity. Research into genetic engineering which is carried out for therapeutic purposes is clearly justified. But, ultimately, it is not for genetics to determine what we mean by human. It is what we mean by human which

should determine the genetics. Malcolm Hurwitt, Southall, Middlesex. [SEE you have joined the eugenics lobby. I quote "... designer babies? And why not?" Are you really in favour of breeding Stakhanovite workers, Soros-type financiers, a footballing elite of Glinola-loo-kalikes and armies of Sigmund Freud (or whoever you fancy) film stars? I am surprised to find the Guardian supporting techniques which can lead us back to the Übermensch. Is there a gene for Guardian readers? PAs for your staff if future geneticists eliminate it from the perfectly desirable human chromosome. More seriously, your Leader obscures the issue by failing to distinguish between the parts and the whole, between human tissue and the human embryo. The former can surely be cultured beneficially for organ transplants. The latter enjoys human rights and should never be experimented upon except for its own good. An embryo is all that you and I once were and I don't think we would like to have been tampered with without our consent. Rev Francis Marsden, Adlington, Lancashire.]

IT'S HARD TO SMILE WHEN YOU'RE STARVING



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A well-ordered home

David McKie

WE ARE not far away, I keep reading from the Internet, from the active House. It is just round the corner, it is just down the road. Some are dead have already been built, despoiling in some vast and echoing laboratory, where scientists in white coats monitor them round the clock. The Interactive House, it is said, will not just be full of robot vacuum cleaners, steer-

ing diligently round our knees as we read the News of the World; it will actually anticipate (correct use, please note, of the word of anticipation nowadays) the householder's every need. For example, in the middle of watching the early evening news, you become aware that it's growing chilly. Instead of going upstairs to advance the heating control, thus missing important news of a meeting in Luton, you will now only need to say: "It is cold!" and the heat will switch itself on. Or if halfway through the National Lottery Show I remember I've forgotten to turn on the grill, I'll need only to bark "Turn on the grill this instant, slave!" and my house will obey.

All this will be such a service to old and disabled people that I hesitate to challenge its wisdom. Even so, our experience with computers has surely taught us that the mechanical creation can sometimes be as balky and unpredictable as the animal one. Unlike your own Labrador puppy, your new laptop will not chew up slippers and handbags; it may even be predisposed to unquestioning obedience. It will, however, drive you equally spare. One reason for this will be its insistence on doing what you tell it to do, rather than what you mean to tell it to do. It will then bombard you with messages accusing you of carrying out an illegal operation, or even of Fatal Error. You cannot then, as you might your Labrador puppy, chase it out of the room.

What I can't understand about this project is this. Suppose at the height of some sweltering day in summer one says to one's wife: "That chap Snodgrass is a pretty cold fish, don't you think?" Will not the house, detecting the trigger word "cold", immediately switch on the central heating, light the contrap-

tion that looks like a coal fire, and cause the double glazing panels to leap back on to the window? Or if in a moment of passion one winter night, one partner were to say to the other: "I've got the hots for you", would not the heating switch off, the windows fly open, and fans all over the house begin to whirr?

COULD, however, forgive an interactive house for all that if it went about its work on the basis defined by my dear old mother and no doubt your dear old mother as well: "a place for everything and everything in its place". Unhappily, apart from one's natural untidiness, there are practical problems in honouring that. One is that, having removed some object from its appropriate place, I forget where it was that I found it. This goes for almost everything from the Sellotape dispenser to letters from distant relatives. Being, as ever,

Monday December 14 1998

11

In the steps of the Caesars and Napoleon, page 12

Tomorrow: Price pointers at the factory gate

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FinanceGuardian

Electronics company may form third leg of challenge to US domination

GEC to join Euroco group



Sir Richard Evans

ELECTRONICS group GEC could form the third leg of the planned European defence and aerospace group codenamed Euroco, it emerged yesterday. A three-way partnership with British Aerospace and Germany's Daimler-Benz would form the core of a consortium which could include French, Spanish, Italian and Swedish companies, with the aim of challenging American domination of the defence and civil aviation sectors.

Sources rejected the suggestion that GEC had "gate-crashed" merger talks between BAE and Daimler-Benz. It seems that GEC may have been involved in the discussions for some time. Participation in Euroco would mean the effective dismemberment of GEC, whose interests range from helicopter and washing machines to the flight-control system on the European Typhoon fighter aircraft. Its Marconi defence arm would join Euroco, leaving a rump GEC outside.

The BAE-Daimler talks are at an advanced stage, with intensive talks under way as to the fair share-out of economic interests in the merged group and between the shareholders in Daimler and BAE. This delicate and time-consuming task would be further complicated were GEC or any other partner to join the merger.

The nitty-gritty of apportioning stakes in Euroco is proving complex, as is the issue of control. One option thought to be under discussion would have BAE retain its London listing and 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the merged company. Daimler shareholders would own the rest, and BAE's voting rights would be reduced to prevent it having more influence than its partner.

recently, Spain, Sweden and Italy have added their support, and by implication that of their domestic players, Casa, Saab and Alenia. Ultimately Euroco would challenge the American groups on the defence front, while the Airbus consortium — currently an informal alliance of national firms — would be incorporated as Euroco's civil aircraft wing.

American Notebook

Net gives retailers a happy Christmas



Mark Tran

WHEN Ron Klemkowski had trouble finding the exact sort of tennis shoes he wanted, he tracked them down on the Net. Now the Baltimore lawyer does most of his shopping in cyberspace, the latest virtual consumer convert.

without the long wait for information to be downloaded. Once the ice is broken with an initial online purchase, a shopper will tend to shop by computer again.

Shoppers are flocking to the Net in growing numbers as concerns about security abate. Increased marketing by Net retailers is making an impact too, and there is no underestimating the power of word of mouth.

Internet retailers now are seeking to persuade shoppers to buy things for others, rather than simply for themselves.

According to Jupiter only 16 per cent of online purchases are for presents. "While online retailers have been successful in capturing dollars that consumers spend on themselves, they have been unsuccessful in getting the majority of those same consumers to spend their gift-dollars online," Jupiter says, holding out the prospect of a yet untapped source of sales.

BUT amid all this boosterism caution is in order. The test of whether it will translate into the projected billions will come when the inevitable downturn bites. Americans are over-spending because of the wealth effect of a buoyant stock market.

Since 1994, the Standard & Poor 500 has increased by more than 150 per cent, generating \$5 trillion for investors. The problem, warns Stephen Roach, the chief economist at analyst Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, is that consumers are spending as if the bull market were going to continue indefinitely.

Consumers will retrench once the market flags and the economy stalls.

The question then becomes whether Net shopping will have so graced itself on to consumer behaviour that it will retain its mass appeal.

One likely consequence of a market slump is that many Internet retailers — especially the smaller ones — will go to the wall.

For the most part, people resort to the Web not to buy consumer essentials but for expendable items, such as pumpkin-carving kits from Martha Stewart, the lifestyle guru, or African violets. The bloom may well fade from cybershopping in a difficult economic environment.

Still, Internet shopping has more than proved its worth, especially for targeted buying. Visions of a boom in Net commerce — \$108 billion by 2003 or 6 per cent of all US retail spending by some estimates — was a driving force behind America Online's \$4.2 billion acquisition of Netscape, the successful Internet software company.

While the fate of many Internet retailers is in question with the rapid increase of their share price, cybershopping is here to stay. Computers are getting more powerful, yet prices keep dropping. That means an increasing number of window-shoppers on the Net.

Gartmore swoops after Japanese bank collapses

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

ABRITISH asset management firm is poised to exploit this weekend's failure of one of Japan's largest banks by taking over a lucrative investment trust joint venture.

With an eye on Japan's vast pool of assets, Gartmore Investment Management, which is an affiliate of National Westminster Bank, is reportedly preparing to buy a controlling interest in the venture from Nippon Credit Bank and other shareholders.

Nippon Credit is in no position to refuse. Japanese financial authorities declared the bank insolvent on Saturday with a capital deficit of \$4.4 billion (£2.7 billion).

Using new powers to stabilise the financial system, prime minister Keizo Obuchi announced yesterday that the bank would be temporarily nationalised in order to clear its mounting debt.

Estimated to be at least \$2 trillion yen (\$16 billion). Despite protests from the bank's executives, Mr Obuchi said the move was necessary to restore confidence in the Japanese financial system.

After the failure of Long Term Credit Bank in October, Nippon Credit is the second Japanese bank to be placed under state control. Japan's financial system has been in turmoil since the sudden collapse last year of Hokkaido Tokai Bank and Yamaiichi Securities.

The Bank of Japan and the Finance Ministry released statements yesterday to assure investors and depositors that their assets will be safeguarded.

Nippon Credit's stockholders, however, will be hit hard as the government will pay at least nothing for shares that were worth 150 yen each last week.

Under the Bank Rehabilitation Law, the nationalised



Obuchi

nationalisation is to restore confidence

Nippon Credit at a glance

Established: 1957. One of the top 50 banks in the world in 1997
Employees: 2,000
Assets: 12.3 trillion yen (\$91.5 billion)
Capital deficit as of March 3: \$4.4 billion (£2.7 billion)
Bad loans: At least \$2 trillion yen (\$16 billion)

ers, however, will be hit hard as the government will pay at least nothing for shares that were worth 150 yen each last week.

Under the Bank Rehabilitation Law, the nationalised

bank's executives will be replaced, its workforce trimmed and its assets sold off.

According to the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Nippon Trust has already agreed to sell Gartmore its 20 per cent stake in NCG investment trust, one of Japan's most successful asset management firms. Gartmore, which already owns 10 per cent of NCG, is preparing to buy a further 7 per cent share from Yamaiichi and another failed brokerage.

A takeover would bring several benefits for the British firm, which has suffered recently from an exodus of clients in other markets. LCG, one of Japan's 40 largest investment trusts, controls assets worth \$5 billion (£375 million) and has built a reputation for expertise in overseas equity markets.

According to an LCG spokesman, the firm's biggest fund racked up 30 per cent growth in the year to August.

Since the start of the government's 'Big Bang' deregulation drive in April, foreign firms have expanded aggressively into Japan's previously closed financial sector.

American firms, such as Merrill Lynch and Travellers, see rich pickings in the ruins of Japan's economy notably the \$10 trillion mountain of individual assets that is mostly sitting in low interest savings accounts.

Gartmore, however, will need a domestic distribution network to take advantage of its position.

For this reason, it is expected to share the ownership of NCG with Chuo Trust, the institution which is seen as most likely to take over a rehabilitated Nippon Credit.



Foreign firms see rich pickings in Japan and Gartmore is set to buy a stake in NCG Investment Trust from the failed Nippon Credit Bank (above). PHOTOGRAPH BY KATSUMI KASAHARA

City waits to absorb key indicators

This week

Charlotte Denny and Laurie Laird

CHRISTMAS may be just over the horizon but the City's economic gurus won't be taking their eyes off the screen to do their shopping with key indicators released this week.

Today producer price figures for November will give the first indication of inflationary pressures in the economy last month. Tomorrow the Retail Price Index for November will reveal whether the Bank of England has managed to hit its target for inflation of 2.5 per cent again.

TODAY - Interims: Druck Holdings, Europower, NRP Phys, Shield Diagnostics. Finals: API Group, Hardy & Hansons, Fountain Forestry, Kinick, Vaux Group.

TOMORROW - Interims: Bellways, Bousted, Computel, MFI Furniture. Finals: First Choice Holidays, Hawtin, Leeds Group.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Baggeridge Brick, Phonelink, Carpentright. Finals: Securicon.

THURSDAY - Interims: Asda, Jones Stroud Holdings, McKay Securities, Universal Salvage. Finals: Legal & General Recovery Investment Trust.

FRIDAY - Interims: Macolic.

Opec export controls in disarray

Producers ignore moves to pump up oil prices from 12-year low

Charlotte Denny and Dan Atkinson

EFFORTS by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to pump up the price of oil were in disarray yesterday after some producers rejected calls for a halt to exports.

Libya proposed the emergency measure at a meeting of Persian Gulf oil exporters in Cairo on Saturday after oil prices slumped to a 12-year low in trading last week.

In real terms, the commodity is now at its cheapest since the first oil shock of 1973.

In a separate development, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and non-Opec member Mexico announced that they will meet next week in Madrid to discuss ways of stemming the world oil glut.

Qatar's oil minister, Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, said the producers had rejected

ed Libya's plan because it was very difficult from a technical point of view to prohibit countries exporting.

But analysts said an immediate halt to sales abroad would be more effective than trying to get countries to adhere to production cuts.

Cheating has derailed Opec's efforts to cut so far this year.

"No one will say yes," said Mohammed Abdulbaki, a senior adviser with the Petroleum Finance Company, based in Washington. "But it would be a very effective way of absorbing the oil glut and forcing countries to comply as cheating would be very easy to detect," he said.

Production levels will be on the agenda again at next week's Madrid meeting, with Saudi Arabia rumoured to favour further cuts if prices continue at crisis levels.

But two earlier rounds of cuts this year have failed to

boost the price after many countries failed to keep to the agreement. Venezuela is one of the chief culprits, and an agreement with Saudi Arabia and Venezuela in Spain next week is seen as crucial to the future of any new measures to prop up oil prices.

Elsewhere, British Aerospace, which is paid in crude oil by the Saudi government for the \$2 billion a year Al-Yamama package of Tornado and Hawk aircraft, said yesterday that its full-year figures for 1998 would be boosted by a cash compensation payment from the Saudis to make up for the sliding oil price.

BA's half-year figures, reported a drop in its cash holdings, caused by lower oil prices. But Saudi Arabia is contracted to make up the difference whenever the value of the oil supplied falls short of the cost of the aircraft.

Meanwhile oil group Shell, which has much criticised for top-heavy management and a sprawling portfolio of assets, was reported to be planning to unveil later today a package of job cuts, after a write

down in asset values and a schedule of businesses it is to put up for sale.

Shell, which last week moved to replace its system of management by committee with a more dynamic structure based around American-style chief executives, was thought likely to add to the 6,000 jobs already earmarked for the axe.

Speculation continued on the possibility of a bid for Chevron, which was last week rumoured to be the target of a planned bid from Shell.

Chevron's finance chief, Martin Khaten, told Bloomberg news agency that a merger would be pointless unless it unleashed new growth potential, but analysts said Chevron had to find some way to combat its earnings slump.

American analysts and industry executives expect low oil prices to persist next year because of slack Asian demand and a worldwide glut. Crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange closed at \$10.79 a barrel on Friday, down more than 40 per cent in the past year.

Apprehensive banks warn managers off tobacco stocks

Li Stuart

INVESTMENT banks, nervous about the results of this week's landmark High Court hearing brought by 53 cancer victims, are instructing fund managers not to buy tobacco stocks.

HSBC has circulated a memo warning off further investment in Gallaher, producer of Silk Cut, and Imperial Tobacco, which makes Lambert & Butler.

Both defendants in the case which could lead to the companies paying millions of pounds in compensation to sufferers of smoking-related diseases.

The bank is downgrading its recommendation on Gallaher and Imperial from overweight to hold because of what may be unwelcome newsflow.

The hearing, scheduled to finish on Wednesday, is the first legal hurdle in the fight to bring the tobacco companies to trial. It will decide whether the action can go ahead even though it is out of time. If so, the full trial will take place in January 2000.

The 53 allege that the companies, between 1957 and 1971, negligently failed to sufficiently reduce the tar yield of their cigarettes.

Move to deter Barclays bids

Jill Treanor

THE competition authorities are believed to be devising a plan to deter rival clearing banks from bidding for Barclays. The City believes the bank is vulnerable to a bid after the shock departure of chief executive Martin Taylor last month.

The difficulties facing potential predators are expected to frustrate shareholders in Barclays. They have told Sir Peter Middleton, the temporary chief executive, that they want the bank to spin off its troublesome investment banking business and find a partner for the remaining retail arm.

Acquisition-hungry Lloyds TSB is thought to have ruled out an approach on monopoly grounds. Even before the acquisition of Barclays, Lloyds TSB already has a 16 per cent share of the business banking market while both are giants on the high street. Lloyds has a share of 30 per cent of retail accounts while in the small business sector Barclays controls about 25 per cent of the market which rises to 30 per cent for the medium sized businesses.

An approach from NatWest, which Mr Taylor approached last year — would face similar difficulties City experts say. "Halfax or the

Prudential might be less of a problem," one senior banker said yesterday, though Halifax reportedly decided against a tie-up with a clearing bank.

All of the City's leading financial institutions have hired teams of investment bankers to scrutinise their rivals with a view to making bid approaches.

HSBC — owner of Midland — and Lloyds TSB stand out as the country's biggest banks while Barclays, Halifax, NatWest and Abbey National are all of a similar size and jostle for the third slot.

The Office of Fair Trading would look at bids where they were concerned that the combined entity had a 35 per cent share of the market. The OFT can define the market at its own discretion, so for instance could look at small businesses as a single market. The OFT would then advise Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary, of its conclusion.

The OFT last night refused to comment on the reports that it has scrutinised potential bids for Barclays.

Senior bankers warn that the Government appears to be taking an active interest in their industry and cite the recent appointment of Don Cruickshank, the former Telecoms regulator, to investigate the banking industry.

Indicators

TODAY - UK Producer Prices (Nov)
TOMORROW - UK Retail Prices (Nov)
US Consumer Prices (Nov)
WEDNESDAY - UK Unemployment (Nov)
UK Public Finance (Nov)

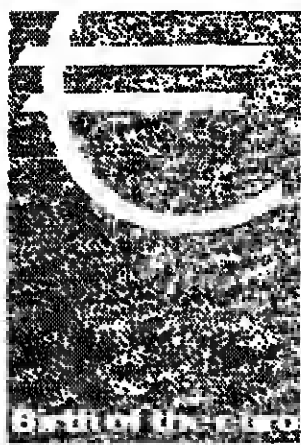
Tourist rates

Australia 2.60 Germany 2.677
Belgium 12.74 Greece 4.474
Canada 2.468 Hong Kong 12.57
Cypriot 0.7022 India 7.038
Denmark 10.24 Ireland 1.071
Finland 8.190 Israel 6.917
France 8.3573 Italy 2.061
Switzerland 2.16 Turkey 488.180
USA 1.8229

Investment rates

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The single currency



In the first of a series on European monetary union, which begins on January 1, Larry Elliott adds up the pluses and minuses

Risky trip to dollar rivalry

TO SAY the least, it has not been an easy birth. There have been times when it looked like a phantom pregnancy, others when this child of France and Germany threatened to be stillborn. But finally gestation is over and the euro is due to come kicking and screaming in the world.

Make no mistake, this is a historic event. Whether enthusiast or sceptic, the birth of the single currency is a big, big moment for Europe — the biggest since the Marshall Plan laid the foundations for recovery in the aftermath of the second world war.

The single currency has a long lineage. The Romans had one currency in their empire, but later attempts to turn Europe into a united economy by force failed.

Helmut Kohl has succeeded by peaceful means where Napoleon and Hitler did not by conquest. In the scale of its ambition, the euro project is staggering. Put aside the fact that for the first three years of its life the infant euro will be a virtual currency, with notes and coins only available from 2002 onwards.

From day one, the Euro-

pean Central Bank will set a single interest rate for the entire euro-zone and its 11 currencies will be irrevocably fixed. Should some find the going tough, they will no longer have the option to alter borrowing costs or allow their currencies to take the strain.

The \$84,000 question is whether the euro will work. Supporters argue that in an era of global economic forces, only the large and powerful can survive. Mr Kohl's devotion to the project stems from his belief that "the nation state cannot solve the great problems of the 21st century."

John Laughland, in his Eurosceptic tome, *The Tainted Source*, concludes: "Faced with declining competitiveness, low growth, mass unemployment, and sclerotic and often corrupt political structures, European countries are undertaking to reproduce their present systems at a supranational level, rather than to reform at home."

What is true is that the euro will cut transaction costs and, more important, eliminate currency risk. Most big firms hedge against exchange-rate fluctuations, but a lot of smaller enterprises find the cost prohibitive. There are those,



like the Confederation of British Industry's Adair Turner, who believes the promise of exchange-rate stability outweighs any loss of interest-rate flexibility.

A second possible advantage is that Europe will be able to reap the full benefit of the single market, with greater transparency leading to real gains for consumers. Economies of scale will lead to higher levels of growth.

Third, the experience of the United States suggests that over time the euro will reshape Europe's economic geography. Whereas each European Union member has a presence across the spectrum of industrial products, each country will become reliant on fewer products, in the same way American car production is concentrated in the Great Lakes States.

So if all goes according to plan, monetary union will lay the foundations for the renaissance of Europe's economy after 25 years of underperformance, which has seen the EU's growth-rate drop from 3 per cent a year in the 1970s to 1.8 per cent in the 1990s, and 1.6 per cent in the 1990s. What is more, Europe will be able to challenge the economic and political hegemony of the United States.

The ECB will ensure low inflation. Monetary stability will be buttressed by the Stability Pact, which, by setting rules for deficits, will give governments the wherewithal to run counter-cyclical fiscal policies. Consumers will benefit from lower prices and the

end, bring about broad convergence across the union.

There is a big assumption, for it is clear the monetary policy needed by the Franco-German core is inappropriate for the Republic of Ireland. Suggestions that the single currency is more about politics than economics tend to be met with determinism, com-

from the people. There will be no chance for parliaments to grill the Bank's governor, Wim Duisenberg, and board members will sit for only one, fixed term. But what will happen in a country such as Spain — which has very high unemployment — when the ECB decides that conditions across Europe warrant higher rates?

The risk is that the single currency falls because it has been designed for the challenges of a previous era of inflation. Prices are falling across much of Europe, yet the ECB has an inflation target of 2.5 per cent, and has to explain its actions should the actual rate deviate from that central rate. The ECB has no such safeguard, but is simply required to keep inflation below 2 per cent. Given that inflation is set to stay low, this is plain daft.

Recent wrangling about tax harmonisation misses the point. What the new breed of left-leaning finance ministers should be concentrating on is not standardising taxation, but reforming ECB statutes and ensuring fiscal and monetary policy work in tandem.



There are really three risks — political, economic, and practical

single market will unleash improvements that will boost the EU growth rate and eat into its unemployment mountain.

That said, monetary union remains a risk. Less evangelist euro supporters admit they would have preferred the single currency to have been limited to a core of congruent economies. But the belief is that national differences can be overcome, and that fast growth among those on the EU periphery are an example of catch-up which will, in the

plete with assertions about the inevitable forces of history.

There are really three risks — one political, one economic, one practical. The political risk is one of legitimacy. The Bundesbank has political legitimacy, so does the Bank of England. People accept the decisions made on monetary policy by these institutions even when they are unpopular.

The ECB has no such legitimacy. It was set up with the express intention of keeping monetary policy divorced

'If all goes to plan, monetary union will lay the foundations for the renaissance of Europe'

A brief history of the union

1950: Robert Schuman's plan, proposing creation of European Coal and Steel Community involving France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries.
1951: Treaty of Paris, creating ECSC, signed.
1957: The six sign the Treaty of Rome, setting up the European Economic Community.
1958: Treaty of Rome comes into force, European Commission established.
1960: European Free Trade Association agreement, involving Britain, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal and Sweden.
1963: De Gaulle, right, vetoes Britain's membership of the EC, saying: "Not, not et non."
1964: Euro six set up committee of central bank governors.
1965: De Gaulle sparks the "empty chair crisis" over opposition to majority voting.
1966: The Luxembourg compromise effectively establishes the right of veto.
1968: Completion of customs union.
1969: Werner report outlines three-point blueprint for economic and monetary union.
1972: Paris summit sets 1980 target date for economic and monetary union.
1972: European currency "snake" — an attempt to reduce currency volatility while retaining some flexibility.
1973: Oil price shock sinks Werner report approach to economic and monetary union.
1975: Referendum endorses British membership of EEC.
1976: European monetary system introduced to replace "snake".
1980: Commission launches single market initiative.
1986: Single European Act signed.
1988: Heads of state accept report by Delors, right, on economic and monetary union.
1990: Maastricht treaty signed; Dances reject Maastricht. Britain and Italy blown out of exchange rate mechanism.
1991: ERM effectively falls apart under speculative pressures in foreign exchange market.
1994: Stage two of monetary union starts. European Monetary Institute set up.
1995: Single currency to be known henceforth as the euro.
1997: Stage three postponed; too few nations countries meet Maastricht criteria.
1998: Eleven countries meet criteria.
1999: Euro introduced.
2002: Euro notes and coins introduced, national currencies withdrawn.

Don't be lost for words in great debate

Worm's eye
Dan Atkinson

IT ISN'T easy to master the ins and outs of the about-to-be-launched European single currency, the euro. But armed with this handy checklist, you can hold your own as the great debate begins.

The euro will, for the first time, give the people of Europe a currency to match

the dollar. And a deficit to go with it.

Let us look at the pros and the cons. Then join any way.

But any decision about joining is still some way away. Some way away in the past.

Transaction costs ... barrier to exports ... only 50p left after changing £100 into the different currencies. ... staggering burden for industry. This is the mendacious technical bit. Grand design ... great ad-

venture ... our young people ... inspiring vision: The bogus romantic idealist bit. Britain ... pitiful stance on the sidelines ... miserable, country rotten food, football hooligans. The my country wrong or wrong bit. What we need from the Government on this issue is courage and leadership. Forget it. **Make no mistake, there is no question of a Euro-income tax. No question at all: It's been decided.**

Nor of some sort of European tax police: That'll be two dozen helicopters, a couple of hundred rapid-pursuit vehicles and 500 automatic carbines, please.

Were Britain to join, adjustments would have to be made: Roll on five million unemployed.

Some of these adjustments would be painful: The wage cuts, for example. It is a question of careful cost-benefit analysis: Which we refuse to authorise.

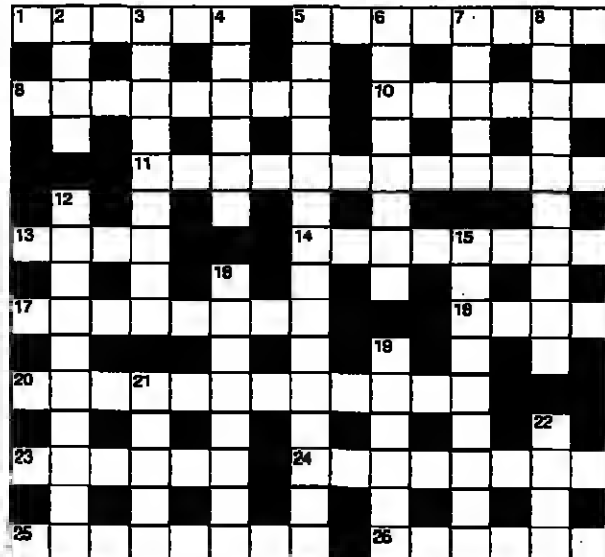
Of course, a great project such as the single currency cannot be assessed purely in monetary terms: See?

The key issue is the extent of the real British indignity, so does the Bank of England. People accept the decisions made on monetary policy by these institutions even when they are unpopular.

The ECB has no such legitimacy. It was set up with the express intention of keeping monetary policy divorced

Guardian Crossword No 21,457

Set by Rufus

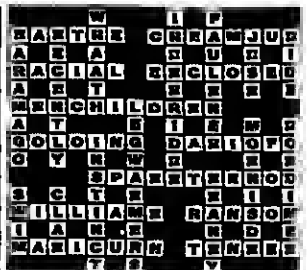


Across

- 1 A service the abstainer takes comfort in (3,3)
- 5 A line of washing? (8)
- 9 May be fired when her plans go awry (8)
- 10 Father in pain, but brave (6)
- 11 Bishop Latimer on top form (12)
- 13 Restricted sort of diet (4)
- 14 One ordered to be silent (8)
- 17 Cat's coat poorly clipped (8)
- 18 It's made to measure (4)
- 20 Current problem in old houses? (12)
- 23 Maximum effort at the end of the innings (3,3)
- 24 Idleness indeed (8)
- 25 Just a moment! (3,5)
- 26 He attacks the copper with acid (6)

Down

- 2 Sound of their own voices heartens the choir (4)



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,457
This week's winners of a Collins English Millennium Dictionary are Douglas Macdonald of Severnside, Kent, R. R. Say of Woking, Surrey, Mrs. S. E. Williams of Liverpool, Alison J. Taylor of Brighton, East Sussex, and Anne Watts of Penner, Middlesex.

Please allow 28 days for delivery

Solution tomorrow

21 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 338. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by AT5.



Charlotte Denny

MICHAEL Fish of the Met Office will be forever remembered as the weather forecaster who told the public that there was no need to worry about the burlesque of 1987 just before it hit the country. The storm that has swept through the world's markets over the past 18 months has left economic forecasters equally wrong-footed.

Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund was forced to acknowledge that for the second year in a row it will be issuing an interim forecast in December — less than two months since its last effort — which will revise down its estimates for world growth next year.

Back in Britain, the Treasury's estimates for UK growth next year of between 1 to 1.5 per cent have been dismissed as optimistic by many



City forecasters. With the professionals in confusion, we once again invite readers to join our annual forecasting competition and pit their wits against the official number crunchers.

Send in your best guesses about the shape of the economy in 1999 and you could win \$500-worth of book tokens from Macmillan, leading publishers of textbooks, academic and professional books, as well as the traditional mug of champagne and the chance to have lunch with The Guardian's economics team.

We are looking for the most accurate forecast of key economic indicators — growth,

interest rates, underlying inflation, unemployment, the current account and the exchange rate. Your forecast should contain the following:

- Annual percentage growth in GDP in 1999.
- Bank base lending rate on December 31, 1999.
- Inflation, excluding mortgage repayments.
- Total unemployment in December 1999 — seasonally adjusted claimant count (numbers not the rate).
- The UK current account in 1999.
- Sterling's value against the German mark on December 31, 1999.

We will explain the points-scoring system in detail next week and winners will be decided when the first estimate of 1999 GDP is available, in early 2000.

Fears that the economy may be about to fall off the cliff have already prompted the Bank of England to cut

base rates by 1.25 percentage points since October, bringing the cost of borrowing down to 6.25 per cent — where it was when the Chancellor put Threadneedle Street in charge in June last year. Now the question is, how low can they go? Some experts are already predicting base rates may halve to converge on European levels by the end of 1999.

The Bank thinks underlying inflation — excluding mortgage interest costs — will hit 2.5 per cent by the end of next year but they would say that, wouldn't they, given that it is the target the Government has set them.

Meanwhile, the jobless total has already begun to slip upwards, rising by 7,000 in October to 1,319,000. When the economy last moved into recession in 1991, 625,000 jobs were lost over the year.

In 1997, Britain recorded its first current account surplus for 13 years. That seems likely

to be reversed this year and next but how wide will the gap be between inflows and outflows of trade and investment?

Finally, sterling has yet to regain levels which manufacturers would be comfortable with, trading at around 2.70-2.80 for most of this year. Will this continue next year or will the launch of the Euro remove the last of the pound's safe haven status?

Alternatively, some pundits think the launch of EMU will continue to prop up Britain's currency as investors use the pound as means of diversifying into the single currency.

So what do you think? Write your answers on the back of a postcard and send them to: Guardian Economics Competition, Economics Desk, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. The usual Guardian competition rules apply and the deadline for entries is February 1.

150-160

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PARTING SHOT

Hand-to-hand combat... Lee Holland of Ely, left, gets to grips with Derby's Steve Sumner of Paterson in the left-hand over-the-shoulder division of the British Arm Wrestling Championships at the White Hart in Brentwood. Holland won the bout and went on to finish fourth in his class

Photograph by Tom Jenkins



Seeing the clock took me back...

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

A FRIEND of mine, a Manchester City fan, is having a great season. His trick is to avoid, as far as he can, all coverage of current soccer, restricting his viewing instead to the rash of programmes celebrating old matches. He cannot believe how well City are playing.

One afternoon last week they gave Spurs a real hiding, with Bell, Lee and Summerbee in devastating form. I am not sure how they fared against Liverpool a few days later but I

should imagine it was more fun than Saturday's real-life 0-0 draw at home to Bristol Rovers. Living in the past is not something with which City fans usually require much assistance. West Bromwich Wanderers will know how they feel for those too young to remember, and for others who find looking back almost as painful as looking forward. Match of the Day Greats, John Motson's new afternoon delight on BBC2, is a useful aide memoire.

The programme also acts as vivid proof that the past is a foreign country, where they do things differently. This was not, I ought to add, the assessment of Motson. There is no attempt at poetry in presenting the old soccer, neither even at analysis. Motson simply sits in an armchair looking a little flustered and uneasy, and they roll VT. The matches largely speak for themselves, or at least provoke so many memories that one's private reverie acts as commentary on the action. And what a reverie, as the old terrace chant used to go.

They showed a 1978 match between Sheffield United and Sunderland and, for me at least, the sight of supporters on the terraces with scarves tied to their wrists sparked off a chain of Proustian recollection encompassing Blonkie, early Grange Hill and a girl I used to go out with from the local weekly newspaper.

Should you be of an age, there will have been similar moments that did it for you. The Bramall Lane clock showing 4.40pm as the match drew to a close brought a lump to my throat for some reason. That is the way nostalgia works, I suspect.

The sexiness of Seventies soccer shirts and hairstyles, which reached its apotheosis in Argentina's World Cup triumph a few months earlier, has already been well documented but Peter Anderson of Sheffield United, Gerry Armstrong (Spurs) and Brendan Batson (West Brom) from the second featured match deserve honourable mentions for persisting with the Afro/sbaggy style that looked fine in a Buenos Aires summer but fairly ridiculous in an English winter.

There was an Argentinian in United's side, Alex Sabella, who never really thrived in the aggressive macho atmosphere of late Seventies soccer here. His nationality was always too much of an issue, apparent from Motson's commentary. When Sabella beat a man, it was "a piece of magic there, right out of Buenos Aires" and, when Sabella left at the end, Motson described him as "a credit to his country".

United's manager Harry Haslam, in his post-match interview for which he wore what looked like a chain-store suit (my colleague Darren Tackle would find the concept of devising a coherent team plan, while wearing an outfit bought in Burton's sale, impossible to grasp) praised Sabella, pointing out "his conversation is getting longer".

I presume this particular United match was chosen as it was one of Sabella's better performances but what I find refreshing about Match of the Day Greats is that the title is not taken too literally.

An Everton-Liverpool match, also from 1978, was far from great but typical of its era, pre-Heyes and pre-Hillsborough. Some 54,000 were packed into Goodison, a great ebb tide on the terraces. Few of them, I suspect, were girls, grounds in those days being somewhat short on refinement like agreeable wine bars and toilets.

This was a particularly lame-brained male match, with late tackles flying in all over the place, but I was impressed with how little fuss the players made when sinning against.

There were no replays of the bad tackles, which surprised me, and I had also forgotten just how irritating Motson's commentary used to be.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

EUROPEAN CUP

Quarter-finals

Perpignan 34 Llanelli 17

Sole France 71 Pontypridd 14

Colwyn 23 Munster 5

South-Isle drom Colwyns v Perpignan; Ulster v Stade Francaise to be played on Jan 9/10.

EUROPEAN SHIELD

Quarter-finals

Ulster 43 Cardiff 12

Norwich 30 Pau 13

Bourne 29 Agen 18

Monmouth 68 Dax 13

South-Isle drom Bourne v Ulster, Monmouth v Narbonne to be played on Jan 9/10.

ALLIED IRISHMAN

Quarter-finals

Bath 9 Northampton 16

London Welsh 23

London Scottish 17

Scarlets 40 London Irish 26

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WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE

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Premiership

Tottenham Hotspur 2 Manchester United 2

Cracks show in United's armour

David Lacey

IT IS easy to see how Manchester United could win their fifth Premiership title in seven seasons. Equally it is not difficult to imagine how the championship could again pass them by.

At the moment United's veneer of invincibility is precisely that. Behind the sort of attacking extravagance which at White Hart Lane on Saturday threatened to reduce the strutting Tottenham cockerel to a feebly clucking capon lies a vulnerability which, at the very least, ought to keep the championship contest alive until next May.

Clearly the dismissal of Gary Neville six minutes before the interval, following a second booking, was part of the reason why, having established a 2-0 lead by the 17th minute, United were headed for a 2-2 draw in injury-time. Yet, as pleas of mitigation go, this told only half the story.

George Graham, who in his two months as Spurs manager has brought to White Hart Lane a revivalist fervour worthy of Elmer Gantry, quite rightly pointed out that having a man sent off does not necessarily make life easier for the opposing team. All that happens is that the de-

Match stats

	Tot ManU	46%
Possession	54%	46%
Attempts on target	7	6
Attempts off target	6	4
Corners	6	3
Fouls	10	16
Offsides	4	1
Bookings	2	7
Sendings-off	0	1

pleted side reinforce their defence and make greater use of fresh legs among their substitutes.

No, Manchester United did not lose two points and the chance to go top on anything other than goal difference simply because they were reduced to 10 men. Their inability to deal with accurate free-kicks by Darren Anderton cost them victory more than anything else.

When a defender is allowed to score with a free header from a set-piece, that might be treated as a momentary lapse. When he does so a second time the fault surely runs a little deeper.

Sol Campbell's two goals, in the 70th minute and the first of the two minutes allowed for stoppages, followed the hard, flat crosses Anderton launched at the heart of the United defence from left and right.

Well taken though both goals were, there was a time when the combination of Peter Schmeichel's giant shadow and Gary Pallister's power in the air would have minimised the likelihood of Manchester United being punished twice in such a manner in the same game. Now things are a little different and, had Allen Nielsen not headed the game's simplest chance straight to Schmeichel two minutes after Campbell's first goal, Spurs might even have won.

While Schmeichel could not be blamed for either goal he is staying on his line more often at free-kicks and corners and is becoming increasingly nervous when he leaves it to gather high balls. Nor would it be fair to hold the excellent Jaap Stam wholly responsible, but it is an inescapable fact that, when Campbell was serving a point for his team in the air, United had three centre-backs on the pitch, Hen-



Soothing Rennie... the referee intervenes as Roy Keane, one of the five United players not hooked, squares up to Andy Sinton. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM HEVEZI

ning Berg having joined Stam and Ronny Johnsen after half-time.

For Manchester United the disappointment of not winning was all the more profound because of the way they started. By now it should have dawned on most people that Alex Ferguson does not field reserves, he simply opts for alternatives made available by the depth and variety of his squad. Thus playing Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer instead of Dwight Yorke, who was unfit, and Andy Cole was never going to make life easier for Tottenham's defenders.

Initially Nicky Butt, preferred in midfield to Paul Scholes, posed the biggest problem of all. With Roy Keane again in superlative form and Sheringham dropping deep, Butt was the crucial link in a series of attacks which bypassed the Spurs midfield and outflanked their defence.

After 10 minutes, following a Tottenham free-kick and a nervous clearance by Schmei-

chel, Sheringham, Butt, Ryan Giggs and David Beckham launched a counter-attack which left White Hart Lane winded.

From Beckham's centre Giggs saw a header blocked by Ian Walker with Solskjaer running in the rebound. Seven minutes later Sheringham's quick pass out to Beckham, followed by another cross, found Solskjaer reaching the ball a fraction ahead of Campbell and increasing United's lead with a crisp first-time shot.

Four previous visits to London this season, including the FA Charity Shield, had brought Manchester United little joy, let alone a win, but now it was hard to see how they could lose. Then Gary Neville was cautioned for a two-footed lunge at Nielsen and 10 minutes later saw both yellow and red for hauling down David Ginola, and thereafter the plot changed.

Altogether Uriah Rennie, the Sheffield referee, showed United seven yellow cards, as well as the red, and Spurs

two. Yet Rennie's handling of the match was sympathetic to the game's flow and, when Beckham and Andy Sinton began their own private war, he recognised that this was the equivalent of Richard Crompton's Violet Elizabeth taking on A A Milne's Mary Jane.

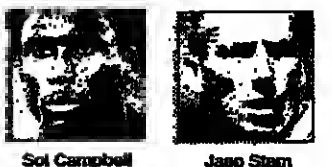
The odd flounce apart, the match was notable for the strength and straightforwardness of much of the tackling. Giggs defended as assiduously as anyone and evidence of his renewed sharpness will help United shake off Saturday's disappointment as they prepare to meet Chelsea at home on Wednesday.

At the end of the game Ferguson's acknowledgement of Graham was perfunctory and for the second time this season he left a London ground without a word to reporters. Maybe he can console himself with the thought that Chelsea's defence is equally uncertain on crosses but they have lost only once at Old Trafford in nine league visits.

On the defensive

How the Spurs and United stoppers compared at White Hart Lane

	Spurs	Man Utd
Minutes on pitch	90	90
Goals	2	0
Goal attempts	2	1
On target	2	1
Off target	2	1
Passing		
Passes attempted	22	12
Success rate	65%	82%
Defending		
Tackles attempted	4	3
Success rate	75%	67%
Clearances made	18	23
Discipline		
Fouls committed	0	0
Cards (yellow-red)	0-0	0-0



Sol Campbell Jaap Stam

Middlesbrough 1 West Ham United 0

Gazza has Riverside bubbling

Jon Brodwin

IT WAS the sort of moment Paul Gascoigne must dread. At the final whistle, sweat dripping from his brow, he was ushered towards a television camera by the side of the pitch to be told he was Man of the Match.

All of which might sound excellent news, particularly with Glenn Hoddle's No. 2 John Gorman peering down from the stands. But such awards are synonymous with champagne and Gascoigne was surely relieved to escape with nothing more than an isotonic drink in his hand.

His was not quite a champagne performance. After a sparkling first-half he dried out a little, though he still looked capable of knocking over a hotel chair from 30 yards — never mind two yards — with his feet.

"I thought Gazza was the best player on the pitch," said Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson. "I'm pleased he's enjoying life again away from football. He's settled in his new house and he's got everything in perspective."

"It doesn't matter how good a player you are, if you are not training all the time it takes a bit of an edge off your game. When Gazza was having his treatment he missed three days a week. Now he's in full-time training we're getting the best out of him."

Of course everything with Gascoigne is invariably black or white. A world-beater one moment, he is a wit-beater the next. He turns the saviour of English football and unfit for the Marchwood Priory 4th XI. If he has his life in perspective, few others do.

His defence apparently has not. They allowed Steve Vickers to hit a post before Brian Deane headed in Townsend's corner in the 40th minute. His marker Rio Ferdinand may have been dreaming of Manchester United or Liverpool. Though Redknapp yesterday laughed off talk of a move, "The chairman and the board don't want to sell, I'm sure of that," he said. "And I certainly don't want to sell my best players."

John Harrison hit the bar after the break as Boro lived dangerously but they defeated their unbeaten run to 10 matches. Not that anyone at the Riverside, least of all Gascoigne, is cracking open the champagne yet.

On Saturday's evidence he remains a rare talent. The 31-year-old has clearly suffered from the endless knees-ups — the knees up in hospital plaster, that is, as well as with Jimmy Five Bellies — but the vision and occasional hurt survive. His refusal to waste energy suggests a career in the Green Party beckons.

Yet Middlesbrough's rise is based on more than Gascoigne. Andy Townsend and Gary Pallister are outstanding and Dean Gordon looked to be worth more than £900,000 of the £52 million Robson has spent in 4½ years.

Robson, haunted by events of two seasons ago, talks only of avoiding relegation. But the players are more realistic. Only Aston Villa and Chelsea have defeated Boro this season and they are unbeaten at home in the league for 14 months.

"There's obviously an elite... but I think we can compete in the league," Townsend said. "Europe would be marvellous and with the start we've made it's a realistic chance. But we go to Old Trafford next week and Europe can seem a million miles away then."

It must seem a million miles away for West Ham now. Since reaching second place they have suffered two straight defeats. "Everyone was talking about the Champions League," said Harry Redknapp. "They've woken up now."

His defence apparently has not. They allowed Steve Vickers to hit a post before Brian Deane headed in Townsend's corner in the 40th minute. His marker Rio Ferdinand may have been dreaming of Manchester United or Liverpool. Though Redknapp yesterday laughed off talk of a move, "The chairman and the board don't want to sell, I'm sure of that," he said. "And I certainly don't want to sell my best players."

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Blackburn Rovers 0 Newcastle United 0

Newcastle limp towards D Day

Media conglomerate linked to St James' takeover, reports Michael Walker

TODAY, according to one St James' Park insider, is "D Day" for Newcastle United. The D is for the decisions to be made by the two men who control the majority of shares in the club, Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd, on this the first day the two are legally allowed to dispose of their 63 per cent of Newcastle.

Speculation has been flying about that a media conglomerate is putting its assets at risk. Hall's and Shepherd's decision but the speculation ignores one vital question: why would anyone want to spend upwards of £200 million on Newcastle United?

Maybe some analysts think that now would be the time to strike as Newcastle cannot get much worse and that consequently their value is sure to rise. Yet that perspective took a bit of a knock on Saturday when, after two games in which Rivaldo's team looked to be progressing, they took a major and off-balance step backwards.

The fact that Alan Shearer had been missing from those matches only increased optimism; imagine how effective Newcastle would be when he returned to partner Duncan Ferguson. But Shearer has a strained hamstring and it may be serious enough for him to miss United's next two games, at home to Leicester City and Leeds United.

Without Shearer it is distinctly possible to see Newcastle losing both, thereby reaching the halfway stage in the season with even fewer points than at this time last year. Ibrahim Ba may be a black man with white hair but not even his supposed 24 million arrival from Milan disguises the fact that Shearer is Newcastle's key player.

His replacement here, Andreas Andersson, was described by Chris Kamara as

Radio 5 Live as "brilliant". Kamara could have added "and fearless" for the Swede not only continually misread Ferguson's skillful knock-downs but had no appetite to chase them. Unsurprisingly, therefore, Newcastle's one promising opening came from a Blackburn mistake. Dietmar Hamann robbing Christian Fitts into a low, diving save.

Fitts looked hapless after that ninth-minute activity, though his involvement thereafter was minimal. Fitts's comfort, however, was not apparent in several of his team-mates. Much of Rovers' forward passing was tentative while Brian Kidd, tracksuited on the touchline, was constantly exclaiming that the defensive aspect on which he had worked most in his first week and a second consecutive clean sheet, something Blackburn had not managed this season, was the reward.

It was, Kidd explained, the defensive aspect on which he had worked most in his first week and a second consecutive clean sheet, something Blackburn had not managed this season, was the reward. Kidd was grateful for that but not unrealistic about his players. "I've come in and they'll be wondering what I'm like," he said. "It's an awkward time for them: it's bound to be. The lads must be anxious in the predicament we're in."

They remain in the bottom three, eight points behind Newcastle, but had it not been for the woodwork and Steve Harper, standing in for the injured Shay Given, that gap would have been down to five. Not only did Tim Sherwood have the two best chances of a disjointed first half but Harper made a brilliant reflex stop from Kevin Davies, who then hit the crossbar from 18 yards, and claimed to have got a finger-tip on Jeff Kemp's 72nd-minute penalty that rebounded off a post.

Kidd was not displeased with Kemp, even though the same player missed a penalty at Newcastle in the Worthington Cup last month, because Kemp had shown confidence and decisiveness in taking another. And as Kidd said of advice received from Alex Ferguson: "Alex told me to be decisive and to do what you believe in." Decisions, decisions.

Sheffield Wednesday 3 Charlton Athletic 0

Carbone defines the divide

Trevor Haylett

IT DID not augur well for Charlton when they emerged for the kick-off with nothing to kick about. If Wednesday would not give them a ball for the pre-match preliminaries, then how would they fare when the real contest got under way?

As things turned out, Alan Curbishley's side enjoyed a great deal of possession, stitched together a high number of passing moves and still ended as resounding losers. "They do not possess enough individuals who can make a difference and after four successive defeats they now have to face Aston Villa and Arsenal before the new year."

Afterwards the Charlton manager kept his men behind a closed dressing-room door for another 90-minute ordeal

but he could lock them away for a week and he would still be as far away from the nimble skills of a Benito Carbone.

The little Italian scored two goals in the win against Nottingham Forest last Monday which bore testimony to his quality, but the control, the dummy to throw off his marker and then the combination of vision and power to send a searing shot high into the net took his week's work to a higher level.

"When Benny's in that mood there's nobody better," said Danny Wilson, and the Wednesday manager cannot wait for Christmas to come and go so he can harness a partnership between a refreshed — and reformed? — Paolo Di Canio and his compatriot.

Ironically a potential selection headache has been made

easier by Carbone's suspension. His booking for dissent begins on Boxing Day, just as Di Canio is finishing his 11-match exile for pushing over the referee Paul Alcock.

Curbishley was more angry at half-time than at the end, which begs the question of how long he would have detained his glibly men had the second half not intervened. "You just have to hold your hands up for their second and third goals but the first was definitely avoidable from our point of view," he said, referring to the ease with which Andy Booth struggled off Mark Kinsella to drive home following a corner.

Despite their industry, Charlton showed little sharpness where it mattered and Pether Rudi's delightful volley from Carbone's right-wing cross only underlined the difference between the sides.

Leicester City 3 Nottingham Forest 1

Forest's Flying Dutchman arrives late again

David Hopps

THE one thing you can trust with Pierre van Hooijdonk is that he will not be on time. If his arrival three months late pointed to a season of Premiership misery for Nottingham Forest, by being half-a-second late on Saturday he virtually confirmed it.

Van Hooijdonk's rash knee-high challenge on Leicester City's captain Steve Walsh, which caused his dismissal just before the hour, brings a three-match suspension which could easily leave a Forest side that has not won since August in bottom place by new year.

Great distress caused by persistent unpunctuality: at this rate, when Van Hooijdonk finally leaves Forest it will be to become the chief adviser to Virgin Trains. The Dutchman pleaded that it was an accident and he had gone off the rails only once before. It was

all mightily unconvincing. Van Hooijdonk's challenge occurred during the most disorderly stage of the game. Forest, superior throughout the first half, were agitated by conceding a penalty that put them 2-1 behind and turned the game in Leicester's favour. The excellent Steve Guppy, whose cross had set up Emile Heskey's equaliser shortly before half-time — curled in a third 15 minutes from time.

Both managers were predisposed, from their poor vantage points, to suggest the penalty might have been harsh, but the referee Mike Riley will not have lost any sleep over the video play-backs. Guppy delivered the corner, Walsh headed back across the box, whereupon Andy Johnson sought to clear with arms flailing.

When it comes to scoring goals, no one can deny Van Hooijdonk's class. His finish to give Forest a 13th-minute

lead — Harewood having robbed Walsh in midfield — was so slick that it misled one observer into suggesting that his granny could have scored it. Some granny.

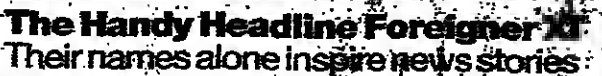
But a Van Hooijdonk goal is not half as engrossing as a Van Hooijdonk goal celebration, which reintroduces the dilemma of whether anybody should shake hands with him.

Harewood, excited by the success, began to sprint towards Van Hooijdonk, then wheeled away in confusion. Only when Steve Stone, the Forest shop-steward, sombrely shook his hand did a few members of the rank and file add their own congratulations.

It is all very silly. If Forest insist on keeping a player in such unhealthy circumstances, then do not expect him to be mentally equipped for the task. Bassett, whose team ethic has been the cornerstone of his managerial career, should need no reminding.

010

A sideways glance at soccer



Their kit don't fit
No. 58 Brian Kidd

A life in pictures

Michael Owen (19 today)



Ask the experts

Send answers and pose questions to the audience below:

State of the nation

A-Z of British football

Refwatch

[illegible]

Cup of winners

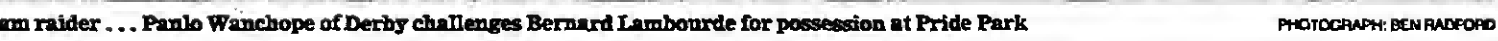
Last week's **Starliner** Chelsea over-
turned a first leg
deficit against
Stroud on their
way to winning
the 1977 League
Cup and did
the same in 1980.
Winner
Michael Keane of
Norwich, Surrey

Material on Saturday

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Premiership



Derby County 2 Chelsea 2

Smith trumps Vialli's gamble

James Thomas

IM SMITH admitted his Derby team enjoyed "a lucky break" with a goal by Gianluca Vialli. "It is a cruel reality that denied Chelsea a true leadership," but Gianluca Vialli gambled harder and more dubiously and no amount of suave spin-doctoring could disguise the extent of his manager's disappointment.

"Vialli would say the means, the ends and the manipulation of his mind at Pride Park, justifies the ends," overbidding Manchester United's Stan Collymore, Smith said on Wednesday at Old Trafford.

At Vialli stands accused here, like a general, of seeing a broad front but overlooking the troops on the ground.

Chelsea's manager is playing the long game — "there's a hurry, the Premiership isn't finish tomorrow," he says — but questions about a seasonal strategy are dismissed as "purely tactical." The subject of spin-doctoring, a subject on which Vialli's patience

Vielli left out six players—those who started in Wednesday's match, including the two players who were sent off, and the three players who were injured in the game. Chelsea's manager could be said to be taking liberties with tradition, but he was taking liberties with his players and, by implication, with certain opponents. In which case Derby answered the question posed by Stan Sturridge's late equaliser:

"We should have got three goals; we were a bit untidy, unlucky," argued Vielli, with much justification. Yet Derby were not untidy or unlucky. Sturridge's devil-may-care triple was substituted 11 minutes from time and his shrewd view of what Chelsea's defence would do in a penalty-area press—what Vielli called "the devil-may-care triple"—indicated Vielli's switch to three central defenders.

Darby's defence was mentored by Tore Andre Flo, whose latest goal adorned performance that was near-flawless. Seldom has English football seen a tall forward of such touch, turning about and pace as this seemingly awkward Norwegian. Yet it was only Flo's fifth start in the Premiership this season. It was the first for the team's captain, Morris, whose efficient chipped pass was merely one impressive moment in a midfield performance of extraordinary maturity.

Vialli mused afterward that this young Englishman "probably would be a regular

	Darby	Chel
Possession	49%	51%
Attempts on target	5	5
Attempts off target	3	2
Corners	6	2
Fouls	16	20
Offsides	3	6
Bookings	4	1

in all the [other] teams in Premiership'. But such is difficulty of second-guessing this manager that the *lo boy* may not get a look in Wednesday. Neither can he be a first-choice player of a place, even if there is sentimental tug of his 33rd birthday. United tend to bring out the troublesome worst in him, who begins his last season with a bang.

Smith did talk of 'rotation' but only in terms of Chelsea's positional switches and momentum. 'Frightening,' he called it, and fear indeed seemed to be the word. Once Vialli's team had allied with Fio's goal, Gustav Poyet's strike only four minutes later was beautifully offset — by Fio — but shortly after, Poyet's second goal. McManis, who dived to late.

Chelsea's defence was even greater disarray a minute from the end when one substitute, Kevin Harper, crossed into the box, and another, the ball home after Paulo Wochop's jab. Derby's first goal

was equally untidy as a decoration by Bernard Lambton on his own net, but Horace Carbonari's vicious free almost demanded reward. The trophy have made good. They have been the reward of Italian Francesco Bardi and the one-time Chelsea back Tony Dorigo who, back outsource Graeme Le Saux. They have met all top of the league, but they have brought, leaving Smith placed to assess the title test. Already, he thinks will go to the wire, between Chelsea, Arsenal, United and Manchester United, not nearly in that order.

"Villa have added pace since we played them, Arsenal have that ability dig in and get results. They are a bit better than they're so good going forward — a bit like United.

"We felt that if we enough balls into their net, we could cause Chelsea to panic, but it didn't work because you can't get the ball into them."

Match stats

	Derry	Clon
Possession	49%	51%
Attempts on target	5	5
Attempts off target	3	2
Corners	4	7
Fouls	16	20
Offsides	3	6
Bookings	4	1

verton 1 Southampton 0

Bakayoko in royal blue of the departed Fergie

an Ross on the Ivory Coast youngster who is now a pretender to Duncan's throne

IT WILL be some considerable time before those who wear blue on the streets of Liverpool are able to fully appreciate the value of the fact that, by necessity, their allegiance must always be to the club and not an individual.

Goodison Park has not been the same since the formation of Everton, chairman Peter Hutchinson came to regard Don Ferguson as more saleable commodity than Talsanić idol.

Life through the eyes of a sedentary businessman, however successful, must be so far from glamorous that the fact that he has sold in absurd circumstances three weeks ago the moment his team-mates are fashioning a first home league win of the season against Newcastle United.

The big man is now well used and yet still they weep to their scarves, lamenting the loss of a gifted, if over-protected, player.

Curious, really, because once Ferguson had slipped beside the famous royal blue away, Everton have collected out of 12 available points, and, more significantly, they are starting to produce some-

Everton do so love embroiling themselves in trouble that they are almost self-biting. It is a pity that their campaign is still so much within their control. Even so, come next May they should be marooned in mid-table and as happy as boys. What luxury.

But the Southsaid of Southampton, who, by the manager Dave Jones's admission, will be required to win at least 10 of their remaining 17 Premier League fixtures to even have a fighting chance of preserving their current status.

Although Southampton missed some glorious openings — Hassan Kechel and Mark Hughes in particular should hang their heads in shame — Everton were clearly superior and thus worthy winners.

Predictably Jones, a former Evertonian, did not concur. "I don't know how we can get that game," he said before promptly delivering the answer. "We made one mistake and it cost us the game."

His biggest concern is that we cannot score goals."

Neither can Everton but it

was to be one of their blunted blades which cut the deepness on this occasion.

It was rather nice that the game was settled by the Ivor Coast youngster Ibrahim Smith. He, too, has been a university wrecked before smashing home gloriously from 25 yards on the half-hour, his grossly exaggerated lunge up until his strike was combed with withdrawal.

But goals change strikers as much as they change games and Bakayoko could have finished with a hat-trick.

Having seen off Johnson, the Ivorian forward Walter Smith is now showing distinct signs of enjoying himself.

There was the small matter of Marco Materazzi's absence from the Everton line-up, rumored to be because of the Italian's disagreement with the team-staff on Friday. Smith was able to sidestep the issue with humour.

"He wasn't injured, just not selected, but he will be involved next week. Ooops, the last time I said that I was talking about Duncan Ferguson, who was actually being sold as I spoke."

Fear not Walter, grocer Johnson is currently holidaying in the Caribbean and is far more concerned with cocktails than cock-ups.

Patrick Glenn

ABERDEEN'S director will meet today to plan a strategy for their search for a new manager, but supporters would be well advised to hold their breath until an appointment has been finalised.

Despite media speculation that there is already a shortlist, with Jim Jeffries of Hearts a skintight favourite, the chances of finding a successor to Alex Miller is likely to last well into the new year.

Jeffries' achievement at Berwick, Falkirk and Hearts make him an obvious contender, but the work of Bobby Williams at Kilmarnock has also gone unnoticed.

Within two days of Miller's departure last Tuesday, 50 candidates had been applied to the Pitlochry club. An unnamed club source, however, complained about the quality of applicants.

In addition, the board expects to hear anonymous reports from at least another 10 applicants. Jeffries is known to be keen on the job, but his contract at Tynecastle has four years to run and compensation for Aberdeen

has no debt and so money in the bank — "millions," according to director, "but enough work with."

The job contender the job came to the fore days ago, when the club taker-manager Paul Hegarty led the team to an impressive 2-0 victory at Hibernian.

The first-half goals produced by Robbitt Wilson and Eoin Jess were followed by a penalty from Jess, which was saved by Russell, just before the interval.

Hegarty, who is Miller's assistant, is v keen to succeed his former boss and the Aberdeen directors may give him the chance to prove that can.

That victory took Aberdeen off the bottom of the league, but the most significant change was at the top where Rangers stole the three-point lead by beating Kilmarnock 1-0 at Ibrox.

In a post-match press conference, the Rangers manager, George Burrows, said the win after 10 minutes. The marmoset striker Jerome Varella may need an operation after dislocating his shoulder early in the game. Rangers' Arthur Nnamani was also taken to hospital with a head injury, a serious one, of which ship

| Scottish round-up

Dons lengthen their shortlist

Patrick Glenn

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Bellamy hints at legal action after injury

ORWICH City's striker Craig Bellamy is contemplating legal action against the Wolves defender Kevin Muscat after a tackle which left him needing nine stitches to a knee wound, writes *Peter White*. The incident happened in

the 69th minute of Saturday's 2-2 draw at Molineux. After the game Bellamy said: "I went in to nick the ball and I just went way over the top, and I have a stack of stitches to prove it. "I shall be out for a few weeks but it could have been

for a few months. I shall look at a video and, if I see it was as bad as it felt, I may ask the manager to do something."

Muscat has been booked eight times this season and will miss Saturday's game at Bradford with his second suspension of the campaign.

to wealthy Celtic and Rangers, they and the other clubs in the Premier League sometimes find the financial rigours of life in the Premier League a little difficult to bear.

at Tannadice, where they squandered several opportunities before the home side led through Lars Forsterlund. The championship required Henrik Larsson headed equaliser five minutes from the end to escape with a meagre reward.



Country girl

Paula Radcliffe takes her first senior title 'at long last'

15



Other pages

Football 17-19

Rugby Union 12

Golf 16

Racing 18

Sport on TV 11

The Guardian Sport

Monday December 14 1998

www.guardian.co.uk

Premiership

Aston Villa 3 Arsenal 2

Villa lay claim to title deeds

David Lacey sees Arsenal fall under Dublin's double onslaught

MAYBE Aston Villa are something more than pre-Christmas pretenders. Certainly they are championship material if powers of recovery are anything to go by. Yesterday a stunning second-half revival restored John Gregory's team to the top of the Premiership after a Saturday night's absence. Arsenal's period of travail appeared over when Dennis Bergkamp gave them a 2-0 lead on the stroke of half-time with his second goal of the game, but after Julian Joachim had restored Villa's interest in the contest Dion Dublin scored twice to bring them a memorable victory in a thoroughly entertaining match.

So the pressure is back on Manchester United, who now have to beat Chelsea at Old

team's organisation at the back crumbled away after Bergkamp and Nicolas Anelka had dominated much of the first half. Arsenal performed some extraordinary tactical contortions in their efforts to regain the initiative, one of which involved Steve Bould spending a period on the left wing.

Having also gone four Premiership matches without a win, Arsenal were as keen as Villa to go for three points yesterday and the commitment of both sides to attack ensured a rewarding spectacle from the outset. Yet Villa struggled to get into the game.

The opening goal, after 14 minutes, stemmed from Fredrik Ljungberg, a strong influence in the first half, beating Alan Wright in the air. As the ball bobbed on, Anelka's head flicked it past Gareth Southgate with Bergkamp surging through to gain possession. The bounce was awkward, the ball just would not come down, but Bergkamp's technique enabled him to beat Michael Oakes with a horizontal volley.

Villa's immediate response was ragged, with little of consequence reaching Dublin and Joachim's tendency to snatch at everything wasting what decent service there was. In the closing seconds of the half Bergkamp and Anelka sliced through Villa's cover with a double exchange of passes which ended with the Frenchman dragging the ball back from the byline for the Dutchman to turn it past Oakes once more.

Villa appeared to be in a dilemma. If they brought on Collymore, cover would have to be sacrificed somewhere, inviting Arsenal to score a third goal. But Gregory said: "I believe after the week we have had against Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal that there are four teams who have the potential to be champions — including us."

Yesterday's victory over the champions and Double winners, and especially the manner in which it was achieved, will have done much to restore confidence among the Villa supporters after only two points had been taken from four games. Villa simply refused to admit that a revived Arsenal side were their superiors; it was a triumph of stubbornness as much as anything.

At the same time Gregory's tactical switches in the second half contributed in no small part to the way his team turned the match around. His introduction of Stan Collymore, who had begun the afternoon on the bench, to augment Dublin and Joachim up front steadily eroded the efficiency of an Arsenal defence which, while lacking the injured Tony Adams, had hitherto resisted Villa's untidy attacks with little difficulty.

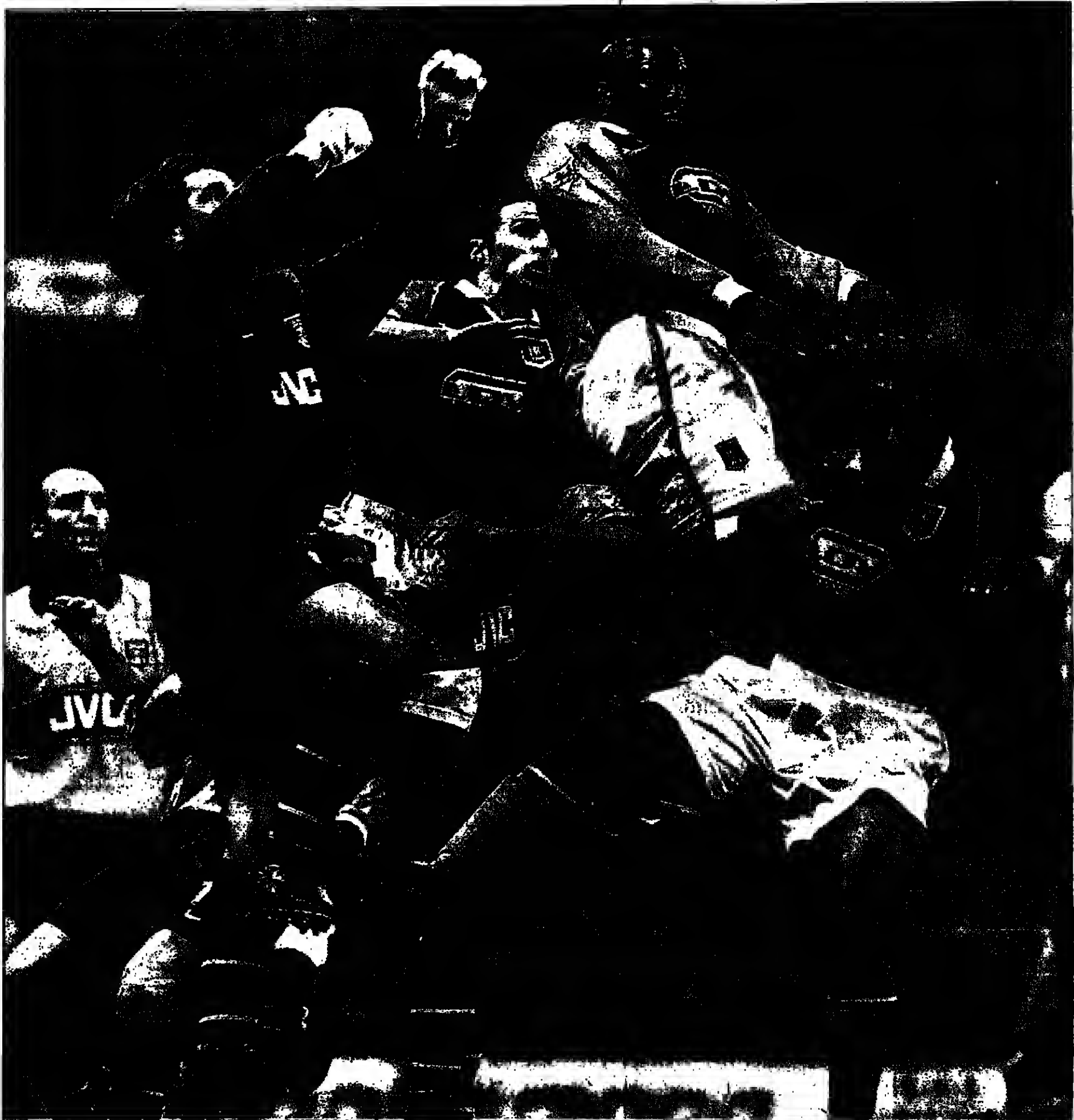
For Arsène Wenger the most disappointing aspect of this defeat will be the way his

Either way Villa now sensed they could win a match which only 20 minutes earlier had seemed beyond them. Sure enough, in the 83rd minute Thompson's corner from the right cleared the leaping Martin Keown and Dublin had time and space to control the ball before driving it into the roof of the net.

Skydiver fall adds to Arsenal jinx

The second half of the match at Villa Park was delayed by 15 minutes when a skydiver crashed into the roof of the Trinity Road stand before plunging 40 yards on to the perimeter track. Jim Walker, Villa's physio, was among those who raced to his aid.

It was the third serious accident at a match involving Arsenal this season. At Coventry a steward was crushed to death by their team bus; during last week's Champions League game in Athens, a Panathinaikos fan suffered a fatal fall from the top of a stand.



Rising expectations... Arsenal's goalkeeper David Seaman leaps to deny the home side's high-jumper Ugo Ehiogu at Villa Park yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE



Topping... Collymore and Dublin celebrate

Wimbledon 1 Liverpool 0

No relief for the Red pain

Robbie Earle pipes up for the Dons and condemns Houllier's side to Liverpool's worst run in 44 years. Martin Thorpe reports

AFTER being introduced to Ceia Vigo, Liverpool failed to come up with a hangover cure at Wimbledon yesterday, going down to their third defeat in eight days and their eighth in the last 11 games.

Gérard Houllier has probably never known a worse headache. His side dominated most of the game and it could be said they were unlucky to lose. But another defeat is no coincidence. This once-great club now find themselves slumping it only nine points off the relegation zone.

It is Liverpool's worst run overall since 1954, when Don Welsh was manager. How richer the picture looks for Wimbledon, the perennial penguins. Joe Kinnear's side have now won seven of their last 10 games, including victories over Chelsea and Arsenal as well as Liverpool.

On a pitch covered with so many divots it looked as if it had been attacked by a bad golfer, Wimbledon's defence found a perfect setting as they soaked up the pressure, rode their luck, carved out chances and sewed up the points with a

typically scrappy goal. Of course, they will not mind. They now sit eighth in the table.

Liverpool's problem was that they could not find the net. Neil Sullivan in Wimbledon's goal denied the visitors on at least four occasions while the squanderer of two of those chances, Michael Owen, also missed a penalty. It was not a great way to spend the afternoon before your 19th birthday, especially on the ground where you scored your first senior goal two seasons ago.

Liverpool had been hoping that the return of Jamie Redknapp, Paul Ince and Vegard Heggem to the inexperienced side which failed to overcome the Spanish club on Tuesday would prove a decisive factor and secure their fifth win in 12 visits to Wimbledon.

But the faint-limbs in this Liverpool side ran much deeper, beginning at the back where the team have now kept only one clean sheet in the last 13 games.

It was not that Liverpool were overwhelmed. Their own domination began early on as they carved out promising channels down

the right wing through the sorties of the 24 million wing-back Heggem and the astute vision of Patrik Berger in midfield.

The Czech, after 12 minutes, pounced on a poor clearance from Ben Thatcher to deliver a run and shot from 20 yards which forced Sullivan into his first save.

Six minutes later the Scottish international produced an even better stop after Berger released Heggem, who unleashed an 18-yard shot which deflected off Dean Blackwell and forced Sullivan to adjust his position before pawing the ball away.

On the half-hour Sullivan saved from Owen after Wimbledon again gave the ball away, this time through Robbie Earle. And soon afterwards the goalkeeper's alert dash off his line put off Owen enough to make the England striker chip the ball over from an unmarked position in the area.

At the opposite end Jamie Carragher had blocked a half-fit shot from Earle on the line and 10 minutes before the break David James made a fine save from the ever-impressive Jason Euell.

But Wimbledon's struggle to break down Liverpool's fragile defence ended just 2min 20sec after the restart. Marcos Gayle, on the left of the area, might a shot across goal which somehow found its way through the red-shirted sentries standing in front of James' goal.

The ball arrived at Earle, unmarked and looking badly offside. But some stragglers had played him on and allowed the Wimbledon midfielder to score easily from close range.

Liverpool, though, continued to press. Sullivan resumed normal service with a great save to keep out Berger's 19-yard free-kick and, with less than 15 minutes left, Ince at last did something worthwhile by winning a penalty for being brought down by Andy Roberts.

With Robbie Fowler already substituted, Owen took the kick and struck it feebly enough for Sullivan, diving to his left, to drop on the ball. Blackwell then denied Karlheinz Riedle with a fine tackle by the Wimbledon penalty spot. In between all this James saved Liverpool's further chances with a smart save from Efan Ekoku. But this was not Liverpool's day, just as it has not been their week or their season.

Television and radio

The weather in Europe

Interview

Salute

New York

Media

a look at a job

High-profile cases of corruption and racism have brought morale in Britain's police forces to an all-time low. But whose fault is it, and can anyone repair the damage?

Duncan Campbell reports

Dark side of the force

They're corrupt. They're racist. They're sexist. They're homophobic. They're all of these things, and worse than all of that put together — they're basically to be feared. In the casual reader of the British press over the past three months that would be a fairly accurate description of Britain's police.

Tomorrow Sir Paul Condon, the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, will launch an initiative to combat the corruption in his force highlighted two months ago when two former flying squad officers admitted at the Old Bailey to a whole portfolio of criminal activities from conspiring to rob to drug dealing to perverting the course of justice. It will be, his critics claim, the most comprehensive anti-corruption strategy ever devised for a police force.

Three days later, assistant commissioner David O'Connor will chair a conference on combating racism in a service still digesting the unforgivable truth of the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. With last week's Home Office report about the black men are still the times stopped and searched, the issue has been thrown into sharp relief.

And it's by no means a London problem: David Wilford, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, acknowledges that institutional racism exists within the police and John Newing, the new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constable of Derbyshire, cites racism as a major issue. Racially motivated attacks may be rare, but the police have never been more divided than they are now. The numbers of officers who have been accused of obtaining confessions from suspects by "leading them on" for them. On top of all this came the catalogue of dog-training practices

recounted last month in the presentiment of a police officer convicted under the Protection of Animals Act. The British public may forgive cops for taking backhanders, giving out to young black men who drive elegant convertibles or nicking a policeman's colleague. "Massive Cleavage" but who betrays those officers who dangle Alsatians by their necks and kick them in the kidneys. Ten days ago, officers who were traumatised at the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 lost their battle for compensation in a House of Lords ruling. The case had provoked claims of a "compensation culture" and one of the law lords, Lord Slynn, noted: "The awarding of damages to these police officers sits uneasily with the denial of the claims of bereaved relatives."

On both fictional and factual television, the uncomfortable message is repeated: last week it emerged that a new BBC documentary on Merseyside police had inadvertently captured one of their disgraced former officers, Blomire Davies, while last week's final edition of BBC's fictional drama The Cops showed the grim tensions and resentments between ranks over styles of policing.

But do the headlines tell the full story? A few other facts about our beleaguered law enforcers have attracted rather less attention. Overall crime rates are down for the first time in 80 years. Violent crime is down 17 per cent. Burglary has fallen by 25 per cent. The percentage of black and female officers being recruited has never been higher. The numbers of graduate officers has never been greater. Committees throughout the world seek the expertise of British officers to assist in everything from murder investigations to kidnapping. The police stand far higher in

Good cop, bad cop ... Decent officers have had their reputations torn to shreds.

acas

Research Officers

ACAS (the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) is looking for research officers to develop, manage and moderate research evaluating the effectiveness of its operational activities. A particular focus currently is the Service's individual and collective consultation.

Senior Research Officer
London, £25,204 - £32,976 (+ 1998 pay increase)
The ideal candidate must have a good first degree in the social sciences, experience of designing, conducting and analysing data for social surveys and familiarity with survey analysis and statistical software.

Research Officer
London, £20,167 - £26,176 (+ 1998 pay increase)
As well as being able to present the results of research in a rigorous, clear fashion the ideal candidate must have proven competence in the use of data analysis software, including SPSS. The post also requires experience of, or an interest in, other research methods.

One year's postgraduate research experience or a qualification in industrial relations, socio-legal studies or law would be a significant advantage. This will be an initial two-year appointment.

ACAS is an independent statutory non-departmental public body with offices throughout Great Britain. Both posts are based at the London Head Office but some travelling will be required.

If you are interested in either post please write for an application form, to be returned by 2 January, to Jane Collier, ACAS, Broadland House, 180 Borough High St, London SE1 1NW or tel 0171 210 3717. ACAS supports and promotes equal opportunities.



Arts Council of England Excellence, Education and Access in the Arts

The Arts Council is being reformed in order to play an enhanced national strategic leadership role in the arts. To do this, it wishes to appoint an Executive Director of Arts and Policy

Salary: £56,000 - £70,000 negotiable (the year fixed term)
This is probably one of the most influential arts posts in England, available at a moment of unprecedented opportunity.

The postholder will:

- play a key role in setting priorities for the arts over the next 5 years;
- play a major part in deploying £400m pa (Grant-in-Aid and Lottery) for revenue and capital purposes;
- have access to significant flexible funding with which to make a difference in the arts nationally.

The postholder will be responsible for the art forms, audience development, touring and distribution, education, and emergent and multidisciplinary arts. He or she will need to bring vision, creativity, considerable managerial experience, a strategic perspective and a keen sense of where the arts are and (even more importantly) where the arts are going, to this challenging and exciting task.

The postholder will be the fourth member of a team which includes the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Planning and Resources, and Executive Director of Communications.

Application packs are available from: Louise Nunn, Human Resources Adviser, Arts Council of England, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1E 3NG. Tel: 0171 973 6199 (24 hour answering machine), Mskom system: 0171 973 6154. E-mail: vc@arts.council.gov.uk

Closing date for completed applications: 1st February. Please note the Arts Council's offer will be closed between 28 December 1998 and 3 January 1999.

The Arts Council is committed to an equal opportunities recruitment policy.



Steve Bell



Doonesbury



Quick Crossword No. 8930

Across

- Not spontaneous (6)
- Proportion (6)
- Monthly piece of abolition (7)
- Single complex item (4)
- Flourish in his (8)
- (Pepel) country (6)
- Central African (6)
- Why historian and essayist (6)
- Building to stone grain etc (4)
- Palais (7)
- Professorship (6)
- Archeologist or medieval ruler (6)

Down

- Ap (7)
- Bird — chess piece (4)
- Hand's coat (6)
- Former arena of first 24 acres (6)
- Entrance to (6)
- Compiling? (6)
- Behavioural (6)
- Measure of land (4)

8 There's always one (7-5) —

13 Times car (any) —

16 Show of confidence (7)

17 Shields used as money (6)

19 Elite (6)

21 Measure of land (4)

24 Behavioural (6)

25 Measure of land (4)

26 Measure of land (4)

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14 | Appointments

BBC

BBC Broadcast

BBC Scotland

Reporter/Producer, Business Affairs

Salary dependent on skills and experience. Glasgow.
BBC Scotland News & Current Affairs needs a well-informed and experienced journalist to play a leading part in developing business and financial coverage across our television, radio and text output.

You will be required to know the Scottish business scene well, and also to be familiar with UK and world business and economic landscapes.

You'll have excellent broadcasting skills, or the ability to acquire them quickly.

You'll be joining a developing team of business journalists. You'll broadcast and produce for TV and radio, and help to develop programme editors about business coverage. You will also play a role in the production of specialist business output, including Daybreak on BBC Radio Scotland. Ref: 30299G

To apply contact BBC Scotland Personnel (see below).

Producer Children's

Fully Booked

Temporary contract until October 1999. Salary according to experience. Glasgow.
The Children's Unit within BBC Scotland is well established as one of the main suppliers of BBC children's programming producing in excess of 130 hours for BBC ONE, BBC TWO and BBC CHOICE.

We have an opportunity for an experienced Producer to work on Fully Booked alongside the current Series Producer. For will be able to show your passion for children's programming making through your track record in the field and will have a reputation for innovation. You will also have to demonstrate that you have the ideas, stamina and enthusiasm to meet the challenges of the twenty two week summer run whilst taking an interest in our other children's output and developing new ideas and formats for the future.

Contract will run initially from early 1999 to the end of the year. In October, there may be the opportunity to work beyond this on other projects across BBC Scotland's output. Ref: 30309G

To apply for the above two posts contact BBC Scotland Personnel (see below) (quoting appropriate ref) by December 29th, 2000. Alternatively, send an SAE to Room 4116, BBC Scotland, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow G12 8QG. Closes January 5th. On-line: www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/bbcscotland

BBC Production

Assistant Producers/Researchers

Ruby Wax Show

Entertainment Department

Three month fixed-term contract. Salary according to experience. London.

The Ruby Wax Show is looking for experienced television Assistant Producers and Researchers for three months to start in January 1999. You should have proven experience, a wealth of ideas, a sense of humour and most importantly an eye for a remarkable story suited to Ruby's style, journalistic and internet skills and a genuine interest in American culture would prove beneficial.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Registrar's Division

Publications Assistant, Department of Educational Liaison

Applications are invited for a Publications Assistant to work in the Student Recruitment Publications Office, Department of Educational Liaison. The person appointed will be a member of the team responsible for the production of the range of prospectuses and other publications for the Department of Educational Liaison. The person appointed will be responsible for the production of prospectuses and other publications for the Department of Educational Liaison. The person appointed will be responsible for the production of prospectuses and other publications for the Department of Educational Liaison.

Salary scale £18,000 to £19,500 (inclusive of London weighting). Further details and an application form are available from Mr Ian Huxford, Department of Educational Liaison, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Tel: 0171-9671106. Email: i.huxford@ucl.ac.uk. Interviews will be held on 18 January 1999. The closing date for applications is Friday, 4th January 1999.

Working hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm

In the series Ruby Wax will look at some of the currents and undercurrents in American society as it prepares for the twenty-first century. The show is intended to entertain and to be accessible to a large audience. It is not about celebrity - though it may feature celebrities, as well as those who aspire to be famous. A knowledge of production and filming processes are essential and it may be necessary to travel to the US to record locations and thoroughly check out stories and individuals.

To apply send your CV together with (on one side of A4) two ideas for U.S. stories (quoting ref: 30321G) to BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 1070, London W12 8GN or e-mail: recruiting@bbc.co.uk by December 22nd. On-line: www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/30321G.html

BBC Broadcast

Managing Editor

Political Programmes

News & Current Affairs

Salary according to experience. Cardiff.

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Cops on camera: how TV caught up with reality

WFO snorting cocaine, to discolour cop Roy J. King up a villain, and patrol car partners (left) and (right) being shot.



Between The Lines: Neil Pearson, a former police officer, is now a writer and producer of the TV series 'Between The Lines'.

The first time I saw a police officer in uniform, I was in a state of shock. I was a writer and producer of the TV series 'Between The Lines'.

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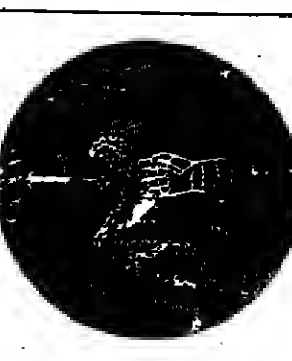
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1000 years

To mark the end of the second millennium, the Guardian's website is conducting a whistle-stop tour of 1,000 years of world history. Each Monday we publish the highlights.



Day 1121: 1222-1223
Mutilation was a punishment favoured by medieval rulers. In 1222, King Alexander of Scotland put down an eruption of violence in Calhoun: his bishop had been burned to death in his house. Alexander responded by ordering the hands or feet of 80 suspects to be chopped off.

Day 1122: 1224-1225
In India, the Golden Horde - the despoiling nomadic empire of the Mongols, led by Genghis Khan - suffered a setback when they were repulsed by Ilkhan, king of Delhi.

Day 1123: 1226-1227
The concept of a courtly love thrived in Europe. In 1226, a knight named Europe's first and foremost knight to compete as much for a lady's favour as for glory, Ulrich von Lichtenstein, a Bavarian who boasted of an improbable number of victories, offered a gold ring to anyone who could beat him and, bizarrely, toured Europe in a woman's gown and long blond wig.

Day 1124: 1228-1229
The king's justice, Hubert de Burgh, dominated the governance of England throughout the 1220s. He controlled the workings of Henry III's household, administering the King's justice, collecting revenues and retaining the castle.

Day 1125: 1230-1231
After centuries of Islamic rule in the Iberian peninsula, the power of the Moorish princes was falling fast, as the northern Christian kings expanded their territories. In 1230, Palencia was captured by James of Aragon and Moorish resistance in Majorca was extinguished.

Day 1126: 1232-1233
For all the Roman Catholic Church's reforming zeal, Pope Gregory IX feared that new religious orders could harbour subversion. In 1233 he established an institution which would become synonymous with terror: the Inquisition.

Day 1127: 1234-1235
Simon de Montfort, who was later to lead the barons' revolt, was still a loyal servant of the King. In 1234 he was called on to put down serious rioting between townsfolk and the students of a newly formed university in Oxford.

Day 1128: 1236-1237
While he was writing those words, hundreds of his detractors were unknown to him, engaged in whole-sale corruption. The Met's first black policeman was being torn apart by his colleagues and women officers were referred to as 'bitch dogs'.

The chief officers then, by and large, looked the other way. That was the 'good old days'. In that the police were victims which people wish to return?

Read the full reports daily at www.guardian.co.uk/1000years

technology was forging ahead; and each development made life more competitive for current affairs. The video recorder, satellite and now digital television means viewers have numerous choices. Whether we like it or not, year by year our audiences decline.

I am one of several editors of *World in Action* who battled over the past seven years to keep the series competitive in print-time. Each year the disparities between our most popular programmes and our most challenging editions have become more marked. Viewers were less inclined to watch single-

100

The idea of us being just one small step from a giant leap into a brave new world, so to capture the poignancy and thought-provoking nature of the Stephen Hawking commercial for BT with the accessibility and broad appeal of the Munchausen ad for BA."

Such sympathy, live-good stuff may seem a far cry from the controversy more usually associated with NMBC and the Donuts, with its political baggage, commercial pressures and ceaseless media drumming, but Douglas-Hume insists he is not ducking the core issue.

“We decided there was no point doing dedicated Donut advertising until the tickets actually go on sale, which is not until next September,” he says in late mid-July. “Every one is so busy with the million-dollar ticket that they will see what we are doing this time.”

The timing, of course, is key. As with the Hawking concert which only ran at Christmas and Easter (and remains one of ET’s best-remembered

plan, stretching until July 1999. The company will use all advertising and marketing funds on promoting the national programme of millennium events being co-ordinated by the company, including weekly payroll giving schemes as well as schools competitions to compose a song for the millennium which will be performed in the Dome and made available CD.

Come next September, however, the company will finally launch the campaign to promote the Dome itself, as they hope, into a more dynamic and vibrant atmosphere. The main focus will be to get the target 12 million people to visit the Dome during the period 1996 to 1999. The big draw during the 1996 to 1997 season will be the Olympic Games. Obviously it will be the big business and we will be using the full marketing and awareness. It will be about selling the experience.

The timing, of course, is key. As with the Hawking commercial which only ran at Christmas and Easter (and remains one of BT's best-remembered

The first TV ad will be bolstered by a hefty 48-second poster campaign at 3,500 sites nationwide, drawing on the rising sun image from the commercial. The posters also use the line "Imagine what we can do tomorrow."

Once launch activity ends, NMCEC will enter phase two of its marketing campaign to promote the movie itself, as they hope, into a more sophisticated atmosphere. The main focus will be to get the target, 12 million people, through the doors during the 366 days it is open.

"Obviously it's a big, big push," says the NMCEC president, "and we will be using the full marketing and removal. It will be about the same."

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

מחירי המוצרים

Method

my agent an
can't refuse

play or movie is over." Quite right. George Steiner is right too: the tradition of any art form is a synthesis of enacted criticism. And in this syllabus there are certain nodes, moments of especially concentrated meaning.

Do Nixto's Jake La Motta reeling Brando's "I would be a co-learner" speech from *On the Waterfront* is one instance of such dramatized auto-commentary. Brando's handling over the reins of power to Pacino in *Tin Golf*father is another. No moment is more dramatically and critically charged than the usings between Hyman Roth and Michael Corleone in the sequel. Corleone played by Pacino, Roth by the Godfather of this Method, Strassberg himself. As Pacino explains to Depp in *Donnie Bracco*, it's all about being "connected."

to connect Doppo to this tradition, to pass on the baton, as it were, Pacino first teaches him the externals of Mafia lore. They rehearse their patter together under the gaze of FBI cameras. The crucial thing, though, is for Doppo to immerse himself in his gay role so utterly that his venture become instinctive. The code has to be internalised. He does so by persuading himself that he is permanently in character. When Pistone meets up with other FBI agents — one is tempted to say with agent — he is tempted to say with his agent — he tells them, "Call me DonMite, I don't wanna get connected."

In this way the role of under-cover cop — *Padrino's Scripto* is the archetype — is a virtually covalent with the lot of the Melhord actor. Servilizing the day's rubies at the *Scritto* editing suite, colleagues ask Depp about the oft-repeated phrase: "Forget about it." Depp treats them to a series of virtuoso improvisations which reveal the psychological craft needed to

The Duppel declaration comes when Duppel is arguing with his wife who thinks he is becoming exactly like his Mafia cousin. "I'm not becoming like them, Maggie," he says. "*I am them!*" There you have it: the manifesto of Method, exhibited and dramatized. Via Patsino, he has become a connected guy -- connected, that is, to Strasberg and Brando. Ultimately Patsino's work is

honoured by the FBI in the parallel scheme of the film, Depp receives his Academy Award, an to speak, while Pacino — who nised out on Oscars for his part in *The Godfather* and its sequel — goes unmortified to his death.

This is what I learned from my reading of Borges, author of *Pierre Menard, Author Of The Quixote*.

John Bole is senior

Journal of

[illegible][illegible]

Women

The age of dissent



A pain in the neck

My mother's hairdresser is depressed about her weight, her husband has left her and given her dog away to a policeman who won't give it back, and she's permanently exhausted, fed up, just filling out, completely delirious. It's a thyroid deficiency — a horrible thing to have, I know because I've had it. It makes you obese, paranoid, depressed and erratic — but it creeps up on you slowly over the years, so you can't complain of anything in particular.

There I was, 28 years ago, hair falling out, eyes bulging, skin yellowing, flesh like molten, dragging myself about like a slug, eating less and less, getting fatter, weighing with exhaustion a few 10-stone trip to the shops and screaming with temper at the slightest annoyance. This is what old age must be like, I thought. Your looks go, flesh aches and bulges, energy drains away.

And I seemed to be growing a widow's hump. Or was I, just legs, or greedily, or bored with my job, I asked my friends, "Don't I look awful? What's the matter with me?"

Nothing, you look fine. But they couldn't tell either, it had all been so gradual. At last a big lump grew in my neck — the thyroid in its death throes, forming a goitre — and off I went to hospital. Luckily for this disease there is an almost miracle cure: thyroxine. At least it seemed like it to me.

I changed back from a dull, weeping lump into an ordinary person. But from then on I thought I could spot thyroid-deficient people walking about the dragging gait, pallid waxy flesh, thick neck, thin lips, yellowing eyes. A consultant tells me that lots of people out there have it and don't know.

Like my friend Shoshana. She came round, sat like a blob all evening, and little, moved less and she looked like I had felt. Could it be the thyroid? Off she went to the doctor and, yes, she had it. The finger had been the persistent and shameful from a dimmy capon into a vibrant woman again.

A few decades ago, we would have been grateful to a hair and nail salon, so for as the world is a better place, but sadly not for the poor malnourished. Her blood test was negative. But it's always worth a try.



PHOTOGRAPH: CORINNE DUFOURNEUT

The war in Bosnia ended three years ago. But for soldiers like these, the front line has moved to the front room and now it's their wives who are in the firing line.

Anna McNamée reports on the rise in domestic violence in Sarajevo

War in peace

In the twilight, under a blanket of freshly fallen snow, even Sarajevo's streets seem to see something on the television, something from Kosovo with women and babies who have been killed, and it reminds me of what happened here and what I saw during the bravest, triggering a new cycle of violence for many of those watching. I don't think I will change my day, I get angry and depressed.

Almar has a job as a driver at Oxfam's Sarajevo office. In a city in which unemployment is 60%, few of his former comrades-in-arms are so fortunate. Many men spend 24 hours of the day sitting in the hills, gun and gun, after the news is broadcast and watching television. They don't sleep because in their dreams they will have a picture of long-term psychological effects of the conflict are really felt.

"I can't describe to you what it's like," says Almar who was 22 when he was called to the front line. "I see something on the television, something from Kosovo with women and babies who have been killed, and it reminds me of what happened here and what I saw during the bravest, triggering a new cycle of violence for many of those watching. I don't think I will change my day, I get angry and depressed."

Soldier, soldier...
"When you have seen a guy killed by a sniper or a grenade, you can't just forget," says Almar, who was 22 when he went to war.

visit local cafes, spending what money they have on coffee and cigarettes. Others turn to alcohol. Nefza Dautovic is a primary school teacher in Gracanica. Once the scene of some of Bosnia's worst fighting, the area is now home to one of the country's largest refugee populations.

There are many cases of heart weakness or high blood pressure related to people's experiences in the war, Dautovic says. "The women buy sedatives to be better, the men drink. We have one student for whom we've had to find a foster family. Her father is depressed, so he drinks. He did not cook for her, she never had clean clothes or took a bath. Sometimes she spent all night in the street because he had forgotten to come home. A child cannot survive that in winter."

Dautovic does not believe there is any atrocity more all for Sarajevo's ill-treated former soldiers. In the three years since the Dayton peace accord was signed, there has been little rebuilding. Many families live in the cramped shelter of bomb-damaged apartment blocks, now barely standing. Few know whether they will stay.

Mellina was 24 when the war ended and the father of a civilian soldier, came home. Within weeks, he was joined by his mother and brother. "I was when my mother went out, Mellina says before she is so bolding so hard she can no longer speak. She is four months pregnant and much of her day is spent huddled on a sofa in the local women's health centre, dithering and crying.

Walter Busch is a consultant psychiatrist and joint clinical director of the Traumatic Stress Service at The Royal House Hospital in East Sussex. Until a year ago, he was a wing commander in the Air Force. "It's well known that people coming home from fighting expect their wives to be attentive to their problems. They just can't back it if they are not. They might drink, take drugs, they are more likely to get into trouble with the law. All these things can precipitate an increase in domestic violence. These days, our soldiers are given stress inoculation training and there are psychologists to talk to."

The Bosnian soldiers were not army recruits but civilians called upon to defend their own homes. For them, there was no pre-conflict stress inoculation and very little in the way of post-conflict psychiatric care. There is a big difference in the way that the British and the Americans treat their soldiers. The British are more likely to get into trouble with the law. All these things can precipitate an increase in domestic violence. These days, our soldiers are given stress inoculation training and there are psychologists to talk to."

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Last week, a young woman was found guilty of stalking her husband's ex. Louisa Young considers life in the grip of the green-eyed monster

Jealous? Me?

If any of us needed proof that jealousy is a truly irrational beast, we had it last week with the sorry case of 25-year-old Louisa Young. She was charged with stalking her husband's ex, Louisa Young considers life in the grip of the green-eyed monster.

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Stalking green... Louisa Young

The Guardian

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